FORTEAN TIMES

strange phenomena - curiosities - prodigies - portents - mysteries

BIRDMEN of the APOCALYPSE!.....p14

Bird attacks, 3..... Mars & meteorites, 8 ..... Yeti, Bigfoot, etc, 11.....

ANTHONY BELL on phenomenal wordplay.....5.

IVAN BUNN on Black Dogs & Water 12

50p : $1·00.

17

UK ISSN 0308-5899

AUGUST 1976

FORTEAN TIMES

A Contemporary Record of Strange Phenomena

FORTEAN TIMES is a non-profitmaking bimonthly miscellany of news, notes and references on current strange phenomena and related subjects. Formerly THE NEWS. Affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO) in continuing the work of CHARLES FORT (1874-1932). **FORTEAN TIMES** is edited and published by Robert JM Rickard: **Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Reading RG7 4LJ, Berks, England.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1 year (6 issues) £3.00/USA $6.00. Back issues (if available) 50p/USA $1.00. Airmail (overseas) add £1.50/USA $3.00 per year to sub. rate. Annual index free to current subscribers, otherwise 30p/USA 60¢. *Special joint subscription to Fortean Times and INFO Journal: 1 year (12 issues) £7.00/USA $14.00.* All overseas payments by cheque should *include* 10% to cover banking exchange commission.

CONTRIBUTIONS: of articles, notes and artwork on related subjects are always welcome and duly credited. *You can help by sending us a copy or clipping of any item you think will interest other readers – just add a note of the* source, date, *and your name for the credit.* Please don't assume our omniscience – there are very few duplications.

RIGHTS: All artwork and articles in *FORTEAN TIMES* are the copyright of the artists and authors; and the views expressed not necessarily those of *FORTEAN TIMES* or INFO. Uncredited material is by the editor. All notes herein may be freely quoted in return for a *credit to FORTEAN TIMES with our address.* Heading artwork is by Hunt Emerson.

These are Fortean times!

So much has happened in the last four months that we are not able to cram it all into our paltry 28 pages. Apart from the whacky weather, we have seen a whole menagerie of monsters down in Cornwall, a rise in the number and intensity of quakes all over the world, meteors, fireballs, huge swarms of normally innocuous insects, a massive drought in Europe and the UK, floods and dam-breaks in the US, more sightings of Nessie, the Surrey Puma and other MAs in England, not to mention Bigfeet and Birdmen. Nor does it end there! Some of these you'll find in this issue - the rest will be presented in the following issues. I wish we could afford the extra pages to give it to you as it happens (almost). We continue to need your support to survive and improve and do justice to these truly Fortean times.

Truss Fund

We are pleased to record the donations of: Don Bolin, Peter Hope-Evans, Dave Pideler, CS Kershaw, Mrs V Martin, PJ Williams, towards our survival fund. Financial support in this form is always welcome and put to good use. US readers are assured that the exchange rates in their favour mean there has never been a better time for a little financial gift to achieve so much over here.

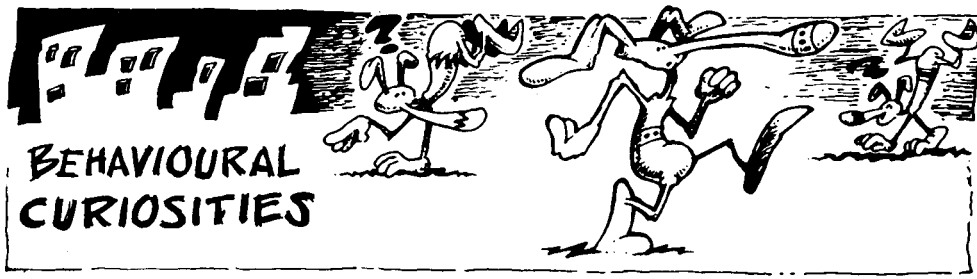
Binders

There has been much interest in the idea of binders for FT, but not really enough to warrant us tying up a lump of money in a batch of 200. So we have decided to postpone the idea until we can better afford it; perhaps next year. Those who have paid in advance may have their money refunded, credited towards their next sub., or towards that future binder. Advance orders can still be placed as these will hasten the day.

The Ley Hunter...Excelsior!

The first issue of TLH under the new editorship of our own Paul Devereux, earns our praise and congratulations. From next issue (FT 18) we will be offering a joint subscription rate with TLH to cater for that combination of interests. We will also be printing a joint blurb - please help us by sending for as many as you like and try distributing them in your area (eg to libraries, colleges, shops, clubs etc).

Next Issue: Robert Forrest will inaugurate our own postal folio on the Great Pyramid and its mysteries; and we begin a new series, Corrigenda Forteana, on corrections of errors in the literature, for which we welcome contributions. This spot is not intended as a pillory, but a vital research tool to counter some of the more gross misconceptions previously thrust upon an increasingly bewildered public..and researchers.



BIRD ATTACKS ON PEOPLE

Since our last run-down on people being attacked by our feathered fiends (News 6/4) we have gagged through 'Jaws' and its sequals - but in real life the Game War continues to be slugged out in all departments. Here's an accumulation of reports from the Feathered Front on the Beaked Brigades.

Kevin Graham, of Tweedmouth, Northumberland, was crossing Tweed Bridge, Berwick, when he was attacked by screaming dive-bombing seagulls. Shouting and waving his arms, he made his way to a couple on the other side, also under attack, and the three ran for cover. They were shaken up but unpecked. Several other people said they had been flapped at while crossing the bridge. Local authorities put it down to birds nesting in the structure who feel threatened - but normally seagulls are quite harmless. Weekly News 10 August 1974. (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

Terry Hauf took to the fields south of Yoder, Wyoming to hunt for game birds. He stopped to look at the sky, and the next thing he knew he was lying dazed and wounded on the ground - and 15ft away sat an eagle also a bit dazed. The bird came out of the sky to strike him, cutting his head and seriously injuring his right eye. When he got up to go for aid, the bird "took off at a kind of trot". An official from the Wyo. Game & Fish Dept said that it was "extremely abnormal behavior" for an eagle to attack a human. Denver (Colorado) Post 22 Nov 1974. (Cr: Mark Hall.)

On 14 Jan 1975 a Jackdaw hailed a group of school-children at Leighton Buzzard (yeah!) Beds, with a friendly: "Hello Jack, my name's Mary." But no one was deceived. In the previous two weeks it had swooped on five children at Beaudesert Infants' School, cutting them about the face and hands. Mothers were also attacked as they collected their kids - and teachers armed with sticks were needed to escort children to the outside toilets in the playground. A police marksman was called, but missed. The next day (16th) the gunman had another go, that this time successfully blasted the pest out of his tree. As an exercise in public relations, however, the triumph was immediately soured. The gunman went to pick up the bird, and found its wings still fluttering as he held it up for all to see. Mothers screamed and children began crying. As the police drove off, one mother shouted: "You rotten lot, why didn't you catch it?" Daily Express, The Sun, Daily Mail 15 & 16 Jan 1975. (Cr: Steve Moore & Nigel Watson.)

Another jackdaw terrorised children on the playground at Cogan, near Penarth, Glamorgan, where at least two children ran home in terror bleeding from holes pecked in their heads. Attacks by a bird on children fishing off Penarth pier were also blamed on this jackdaw. Sunday Mirror 14 Dec 1975. A postscript to this report mentions that a seagull had attacked a young girl, her dog and a horse at Llanon, Cardigan, also in Wales. As no date is given for either event, we can assume they took place sometime in the preceeding week.

Approximately concurrent with the previous two events, a magpie was accused of stealing £11 worth of golfballs on a course at Aldershot, Hants. It swoops on any ball it sees on the thirteenth green and drops them over the fence of a nearby top-security aircraft establishment. Daily Mirror 15 Dec 1975. Earlier in the year, the News of the World 5 Jan 1975, mentioned a crow who similarly swooped to swipe the balls from Windmill Hill Golf Course, Milton Keynes, Bucks. (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

Two mistle thrushes nesting in Philip Clarkson's new carport, at Fairfield Gardens, Ossett, near Leeds, Yorks, have made his life a misery; and that of his wife, the postman and the milkman. The birds have swooped on all who approach the carport, and have even attacked a child. The birds drop from a height aiming for the head, and sometimes come straight at the windows. The Clarksons' nerves were rapidly disintegrating and they were clearly thinking of some horror-film type conspiracy against them. "Look," Philip told the reporter, "there's one now. Just waiting to pounce on us!" The RSPCA, as expected, is more worried about the birds, and warned the Cooksons that the nest, with its six babies, was protected by the 1954 Birds Act. Sunday Express 30 May 1976. (CR: S Moore)

A loose note in the file has surfaced

and may as well be included here for the record. At Hugglescote, Leics, on 21 May 1960, several magpies attacked a crowd of school-children, injuring four of them. New York Times 22 May 1960. (Cr: INFO/Willis.)

BIRD ATTACKS ON HOUSES

The above stories deal with mere skirmishes - the following are of full-scale assaults.

We open with a couple of old but unrecorded notes. At Peterborough, Derek Reegan was woken up in the early hours of the morning by the noise of "thousands" of starlings battering against the doors and windows of his house. Atlanta Journal 13 Jan 1969. Cr: INFO/Greenfield.

On the evening of 30 May 1970, the Bensons of Westwood, California, sat down to dinner. On hearing a strange rustling noise from their living room, they rushed in to find it filled with small writhing black shapes flying around, bumping at the window and clinging to the drapes. Larry Benson gathered his two young daughters and rushed them outside, where he found a crowd gaping at his roof - there were hundreds of birds waiting and struggling around his chimney, trying to get down it. Benson and his wife ran inside and tried to stop the avalanche of birds from the fireplace with a bearskin rug, but there were too many birds already in the room throwing themselves at ceiling, floors and walls and filling the air with soot from their flappings. Neighbours responded to cries for help; they eventually blocked the chimney and opened all the doors and windows, and began the long job of clearing all the birds out. It was a night the Bensons wish they could forget. National Enquirer 2 April 1970. Cr: INFO/Dobbins. Oh yes...the birds were identified as northward migrating swifts, but no explanation could be given for why they should all want to go down a particular chimney at the same time!

According to the Weekly News 30 Nov 1974, houses in a road called The Weavers are under siege from hordes of blue tits, who perch in great numbers just waiting for the slightest opening through which they stream into rooms and rip the wallpaper from the walls in Biddenden, Kent. For the month prior to this report the birds have been stripping walls and pecking the putty out of the windows. A spokesman for the RSPCA waffled vaguely about deficiencies in their diet, but it does seem that the wall paper gets shredded in the frenzied effort to get at its paste. (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

About the beginning of June last year, John Payne and his wife were woken up at 5am by two large crows battering their bedroom window. As they watched, more crows joined them and soon every window on that side of their house at Broad Oak, near Heathfield, Sussex, was under similar attack. There were about 20 birds. Mr Payne managed to go out and drive them off with a stick. But the next morning they were back with an extra ten for support - and at the same time of 5am. Again Payne drove them off, but they stared menacingly from nearby trees and even on his lawn. The third morning, at 5am, 40 turned up attacking the house - and again they were driven off. Mrs Payne's nerves began to suffer: like nearly all our victims they had seen Hitchcock's film The Birds, and the eerie nature of the event, their raucous cawing, and the sound of beaks and claws against glass were too much for her. The Paynes went on a short holiday. They returned on the 13th and at 5am that night the attacks began again ((though we have no idea if they ceased in the Payne's absence)). As a postscript to the report in the Sunday Express 15 June 1975 (Cr: John Michell) is the opinion of Mr Guy Mountfort, president of the British Ornithologists' Union, that the birds are attacking their own images in the glass, seeing them as invaders of their territory, and because the first incident happened at 5am, the birds remember and come back to repulse the punctual trespassers. Sounds far too glib to me! I'm intrigued by the vague suggestion of a closer link between the events and the family - that the phenomenon ends when they go away, and begins when they return - but there is no further information on this in the report in Sunday People (same date. Cr: BR Bates) either. What is brought to mind are numerous tales perused by John Michell and myself, for our book, of birds associated with families as recurring omens of death. For more on this you'll have to wait for the book - but in the meantime here is a curious note from the Daily Mirror 2 Jan 1976: Mrs Dorothy Jones had a disease commonly called 'Bird Fancier's Lung' (psittacosis), and her husband and neighbours did their best to frighten birds away from her house, near Gatwick, Sussex, to protect her from their droppings and the dust of their feathers. Sometime at the end of last year Mrs Jones was critically ill with the disease and a flock of pigeons landed on the roof of the house. The birds didn't stay long - but long enough for Mrs Jones to be affected by their presence, causing her death. Her husband describes it as a "terrible coincidence" that the birds should arrive in a great number just when her allergy made her weakest. It was a similar case that alerted Jung to the possibilities of acausal connexions between events - see his Synchronicity (RKP 1972) pp 31f,37.

The Daily Telegraph (Cr: John Michell) and Daily Mail (Cr: Peter Hope-Evans) of 14 June 1976 announced that the dream home of Mrs Margot Swatton, at Paul Hill, Newlyn, Cornwall was under attack by a kamikaze rook division. For a week the birds had been dive-

cont on p8

There are many different approaches to our studies, and as Forteans it behoves us to be open to them all. They are after all only different kinds of tools contributing to the greater understanding of the world's mysteries. Anthony Bell has by turns, startled, amused, intrigued and stimulated your editor by his unorthodox approaches and theories. They remind us that study without insight can be a dry and often empty exercise, and there is much to be learned from inspirational views of the same problems. Up to now Anthony has confined himself to letters to your editor, who thinks the world is now ready for...

LEXI-LINKS

NATURE'S PLAY ON WORDS

by AJ Bell

While reading the Bible I have been struck by the frequency of certain words which have no obvious religious significance. Also I am impressed by the fact that these same words are often used in pairs or in larger groups; a usage I take as suggesting that they are in some way complementary. Take the admonishings and sayings of Christ as an example. We are told not to sift a mote and let a camel pass through, to cast the motes out of our own eyes first, and the divine capability of getting a camel through a needle's eye. In this case the words mote, camel and eye are used in pairs, and in one case the words needle and eye are juxtaposed. Remember the 'Interrupted Journey' of the Hills, and how hands were allegedly rubbed in front of Betty's eyes (symbolic washing in water?) as a needle was thrust in her abdomen, and the account of a contactee who said his eyes watered when he looked upon a 'space needle' (1). The mythmakers have not overlooked the association of eyes and piercing things - hence the pin, stake and arrow into the eyes of Oedipus, Samson and Harold. Note also that the MIB are said to sometimes wear lapel pins bearing an eye symbol (2).

I feel that the words mote, camel, eye and needle are related, possibly by being important components of the supposed ley system. In such a system the needle would refer to the obelisk or menhir (as in Cleopatra's Needle); the camel with its water-storing hump would imply a tumulus; and mote would signify the phonetically identical moat where water and clay come into contact. What about the eye? I suggest that the eye is the Eye of Horus, the pattern of 'geodetic' lines of influence associated with a blind spring (3). (Incidentally notice that the shape of a watch spring has the same spiral form as the alleged geodetic spiral of a blind spring). Perhaps certain aspects of the Bible should be seen in this light; eg, when Christ said the light of the soul is the eye, did this identify the soul-energy with geodetic lines of influence? In a similar vein, the winking eyes of the whore of Babylon may refer to fluctuations in the Eye of Whore-us - the expanding and contracting geodetic lines noted by dowsers and said to be related to the moon's phases (4). If there is nothing new in Christianity except Christ, then perhaps it is not surprising that words attributed to Christ are references to the artifacts of cultures of an earlier season. Beneath the conventional exterior of the Bible, old ideas are expressed, and because of the cyclic nature of civilisation we may now be able to assimilate these ideas, some of which may soon be recognised as 'scientific' such as Christ's designation of John as the "Son of Thunder", explained when you consider that John was derived from Ion (5).

Whatever the significance of the key-words mote, camel and eye, they appear to act as a link between various concepts, and I feel that the phenomenon of link-words in the Bible is mirrored by the link-words of events in the physical world. Personal experience tends to support this idea, but for examples I'll draw mainly from news items in the press in recent months, and reports in recent issues of The News, so that Fortean Times readers will be in familiar surroundings. These data are of various violent events and no doubt have some sort of sociological significance. Last summer there was a spate of coaching accidents and one of the first fatal crashes occured at Devil's Bridge (6): key words, coach, devil, death. According to a recent FSR article, strange coach-tracks were found years ago on a frozen lake but not in the snow on either side, and attributed to a black phantom vehicle called the 'Devil's Coach' (7); key-words coach, devil, ice. In News 13 is the story of a lightning observer

in Manchester who saw a flash followed by an icefall (8): key-words ice, bolt. Recently IRA operatives in Britain have used coach-bolts as shrapnel in their bombs: key-words coach, bolt, death. In the Moorgate underground crash, the driver seemed (according to witnesses) to stare glassy-eyed as if in a trance (9): key-words Tunnel, death, staring-eyes. The heiress Leslie Whittle was killed in a tunnel by Donald Neilson, the 'Black Panther', described by his victims and witnesses in his PO robberies as having "staring eyes": key-words tunnel, death, staring-eyes (NB: one witness saw him buying binoculars!) ((At the time of typing this up there has been a third attack on a woman, with a long piercing knife, by a female assailant with "staring eyes" outside Reading coach station. Also, a letter from Doc Shiels (19 June 1976) wonders if there is any connexion between the current wave of 'Birdmen' sightings in Cornwall (see p17 this issue) and the legendary Springheel Jack. The thought is stimulated by a series of attacks on young girls in the Camborne area of Cornwall "a few months ago" by a mysterious man with 'strange staring eyes' - we are attempting to find out more on this -- Ed.))

These violent events are linked to one another by various combinations of the key-words, a process of connecting unrelated events by a descriptive lexicon that I call a 'lexilink'. Events can be joined by lexilinks to form acausal chains of events. In the above examples, notice that i) Lesley Whittle was heiress to the proceeds of a coach firm; ii) the Moorgate disaster is lexilinked with the Devil's Coach as both run on or make two parallel tracks; iii) the train was electric, and the lightning observer worked for the Electrical Research Association; iv) the train and staring driver crashed into a blind tunnel; v) the IRA had previously bombed a coach in Manchester (where the ice fell)((but not on the exact same site - Ed.)); vi) the IRA recently shot a tube-train driver.

Like the seven daughters of Nefertiti - one of whom died young - and the sevenfold geodetic spiral of a blind spring (the smallest terminating in the spring), so the seven key-words of our examples (coach, bolt, devil, death, ice, tunnel, eyes) seem to go together. An eye or bolt symbol, for example, is said to be displayed on the MIB motorcars (10). Touching on the MIB autos, I notice John Keel gives the impression that they tend to use Cadillacs and Lincolns often (11). These makes were founded by Leland, a name suggesting 'ley' to me. The Lorenzens (12) mention a tan-coloured Dodge used by a couple of "witness intimidators". The juxtaposed colour and make seem connected with leys, as tan describes the beacon fires (eg: Tan Hill, Beltane, etc), while dodge suggests the movement of the dod-man's alignment gear (13). Keel describes a strange "air force officer" who drove a white Mustang, suggestive of the megalithic hill design of a white horse, and hence leys again (14). This strange "officer" visited a UFO percipient's house and tried to eat jelly without a spoon. Are his peculiar table manners lexilinked to the feats of Uri Geller who turns parts of spoons to jelly? (15).

For the present, the notion of lexilinks may throw some light on strange events repeated in UFO literature - for an example I'll draw on two articles in FSR 15:4 (16) - but first a little digression. I mentioned earlier John, Ion and the Son of Thunder. Taking the 'N' out of Ion and extending the verticals one obtains the classic lightning bolt symbol (ϟ); and by placing the 'O' above the 'I' we get a 'keyhole' shape (🔑). Solidify this keyhole shape and you arrive at a cylinder surmounted by a sphere, a bolt-like symbol I call a 'rodball' (17). Note that bolts and keyholes are features of doors, and doors are mythologically connected with the thundergods. Interestingly one of Matthew Manning's automatic drawings shows a rodball with St John's Head on it, and one of Vallee 's books has a painting showing many rodballs in the doorways of a wall of cubbyholes (18). It has even been said that a rodball once stood on Silbury Hill (19).

Some years ago, strange unopenable spheres were found in Australia ((Apx 1963; others were found in New Zealand in 1972 -Ed)) and in the first FSR article under consideration a strange cylinder was found in Caconde , Brazil, near the door of a house. Like a bolted door, the Aussie spheres and this cylinder couldn't be opened. On each end of the cylinder were two "dials", the faces of which were covered by transparent material and had grooves on them. Pointers on the dials pointed to a zero-symbol suggesting inactivity. I feel the separation of pointer and symbol suggests separation of rod and ball - as St John lost his head, so the mystery cylinder had lost its sphere, hence its inactivity. Incidentally, each pointer was tipped with a small ball! Perhaps the cylinder represents ions of the carbon or nitrogen cycle that have been left underground - like the rest of St John's body in the dungeon. Caconde's radioactive springs may be to blame and I wonder if the kelly green fireballs sometimes seen may also be a sign of ionic trouble as a kelly and a fireball have a distorted rodball shape...rodball lightning?! Like the cylinders of a UFO-stalled car, our mystery cylinder eventually automatically sparked into life, and with a sound of thunder disappeared leaving a hole in the roof above where it was kept! Did the ions finally make it back to the sky? Ivan Sanderson (20)

once examined a 'mystery cylinder'. There were four holes in one face and six in the other, and carbon came out. Did this cylinder represent the carbon ion with a valency four and atomic number six?

In the second FSR case, an entity in a "diver's suit" was seen in New Zealand. "His" head-piece was cylindrical and his face was covered by transparent material. John Keel, in Operation Trojan Horse, notes a cylindrical "flying roll" mentioned in the Bible where it is said to be the curse that goes forth over the face of the whole earth. In the third FSR case, also in NZ, a man stumbles on an amazing scene. A woman in white, looking dead, lies across a ditch. Two Men-in-Brown sit gazing at her. Is the white woman a representation of the whole earth, and is she cursed by the Biblical flying roll? Now the Caconde cylinder had grooves on its face, and the woman lies across a groove on the face of the whole earth. The witness tried to get face to face with the two men, but they turned their heads away, and an invisible barrier stopped the witness coming closer. As the above cases repeat combinations of words that describe them, I feel we have a lexilink situation. Note that the witness of the 'groovy lady' case chewed rolled tobacco after his encounter. Later he revisited the scene with a friend and they noticed a long neat flattened strip in the grass but saw no people. It looked like it had been rolled...and the witness was employed as a ... groundsman!

Anthony J Bell: June 1976.

Notes & References

1) 'Appendix to the preliminary report on Carl Higdon' (quoting National Star reporter Frank Bourke), FSR 21:3/4, 1975.
2) John A Keel, UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse 1970 (Abacus 1973). ((Also note the occult usage of the Egyptian 'Eye of Horus' pattern in a pyramid or triangle - see Illuminatus, in this issue's reviews, for extrapolations of this symbol - Ed.)) The 'tooth' is in the category of piercing things, thus eye-tooth, and "eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth".
3) ((a pierced eye? - Ed.)) The similarity in shape of the subterrantean eye of spiral lines and the human eye can be improved by extending a line back from the outer part of the human eye and around the face parallel to the eye's major axis. This was done by the ancient Egyptians on sarcophagi, etc. MIB sunglasses have a similar 'wraparound' line. See G Underwood's Patterns of the Past for diagrams of the 'geodetic eye'; and Elizabeth Taylor in make-up as Cleopatra.
4) Guy Underwood, Patterns of the Past, 1969 (Abacus 1972).
5) MR Drake, Gods & Spacemen (Amherst 1964).
6) The News 11/20.
7) Janet Bord, 'UFOs in Folklore', FSR 20:1, 1974.
8) The News 13/9.
9) The News 11/20
10) John A Keel, Our Haunted Planet, 1971 (Futura 1975).
11) John A Keel, Op.Trojan Horse; FSR Special Issue 2, 'Beyond Condon', notes p38.
12) Jim & Coral Lorenzen, UFOs Over the Americas (Signet 1968).
13) ...and of course the MIB are oft described as having good sun-tans. Using wraparound sunglasses, however, the MIB keep the sun out of their eyes - but then isn't the subterraneam Eye of Horus out of the sunlight, and didn't the lady passengers in the 'mystery airships' of 1897 use sunshades and keep in the dark? This symbolic segregation of the male sun from the female (earth) element is the stuff myths are made of ((see Steve Moore's articles on yin-yang symbolism in phenomena in the previous three issues - Ed.)) whether we deal with contactee material about the dense wraparound clouds of Venus protecting its inhabitants from solar rays (see Drake's Gods & Spacemen, or Richard Shaver's 'Elders' taking to the caves to escape those harmful solar rays. The black colour associated with MIB may be a reference to black's power to absorb some radiation, or to the 'Blackmen' said to have built the ley system (see Alfred Watkins' The Old Straight Track, 1925 (Garnstone 1970, Abacus 1974))
14) John A Keel, Op Trojan Horse.
15) ((Anthony Bell has expounded to me in a letter the lexilinks from Uri Geller to to subterranean tell-uri-an forces -Ed.))
16) Dr Walter Buhler, 'The Mysterious Caconde Case', and Anthony J Brent, 'Two Creature Reports from New Zealand', FSR 15:4,1969.
17) When we hear descriptions like "an aircraft with its tailplane removed" or "an Egyptian glider with slots where the tail plane was attatched" etc, I think we are dealing with a solidification of the tau shape. You see,"they" are religious fanatics, and have got tired only of chopping trees into tau shapes! Similarly the "Flying Trumpet" UFO shapes are solidifications of the Eye of Horus shape. Talking of trumpets, note the similarity between Horus and horn.
18) Matthew Manning, The Link, 1974 (Corgi 1975); & Jacques Vallee, Anatomy of a Phenomenon, 1965 (Tandem 1974). ((At this point your Ed began to see rodballs all over the place. Flicking through FSR Case Histories August 1973, I found drawing of an entity with rodball eyes

Cont on p16...

Bird Attacks, cont...

bombing the house from trees and nearby power-lines, hurling themselves against the windows - then, dazed and bleeding, flying back to their posts to begin again. A fuller report in the West Briton 17 June 1976 (Cr: Doc Shiels) said that Mrs Swatton tried cutting out large black birds from cardboard and other suggestions from neighbours - but the trouble only stopped when a friend shot one bird and hung it over the balcony. Curiously, Mrs Swatton said the birds never attacked her or her daughters, even when they beat them off with sticks. Another ornithologist is quoted about birds attacking their own reflections during breeding seasons - the standard offering these days on the altars of explanation. But Mrs Swatton doubts it, and her reasons apply equally to our other cases. She says: "People have suggested the birds were attacking their own reflections in the glass, but could the birds have seen anything at night?" In the Payne case (above) the ornithologist expert suggested covering the windows with paper to minimise reflections -- the Telegraph quotes Mrs Swatton: "I hung up sheets and newspapers on the windows and laid blankets over the carpets. Even then there was no stopping them." In the West Briton, she adds: "It has also been suggested the house is in the bird's flight path. But the house was here last year as well, and they never came then!" We might add that the reflection-attack theory sounds like a classic mystery-defusing placebo of an explanation to us - just plausible enough to sooth any anxiety in the public, but not compatible with reality under a close examination. Most experts really do think their laity are mindless morons. If birds attack their reflections on the scale of these events, even granted the ritual hostilities of the breeding season, why the hell doesn't it happen en masse up and down the county?

There's just so much stuff coming in on swarms of all kinds, we will have to leave it to the next issue.

MARS.

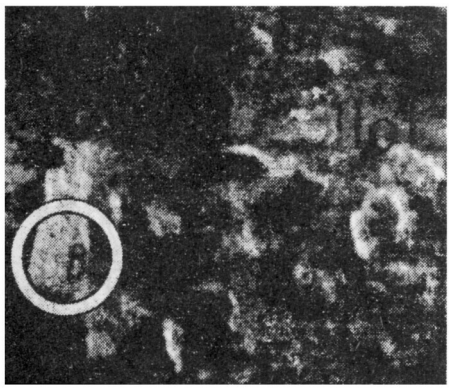
At the time of typing, Viking is making mudpies and cooking them on the surface of Mars and we await any signs of life. In commoration of the event here are a few Mars-items of interest.

Earlier this year, the controllers of Viking's flight at Pasadena lost contact with one of the soil experiments - this was about 24/25 January. The Daily Mirror 26 Jan 1976, quotes John Casani, of JPL, that this curious failure (which presumably rectified itself in time for the landing) happened in a volume of space known to the NASA bullpen as 'The Great Galactic Ghoul', a sort of interplanetary Bermuda Triangle where mysterious things go wrong with equipment. Casani amplifies this allusion in National Enquirer 16 March 1976: "Mariner Six was launched first in 1969, and Mariner Seven followed a week later. The Six flight went okay, but Seven ran into trouble about 35 million miles from Earth - a battery got dented, pressure built up and circuits began to arc. A lot of batteries and antennas ((sic))were wrecked. We began to check out the area - no meteoric activity, no cosmic dust, no solar winds and no radiation - nothing, just clean empty space. Then somebody remembered that this area of space was the same place the Russian Mars probes, Zond Two and Mars One, got fouled up. Further checks showed that two more US space vehicles had suffered damage in the Ghoul's lair...and Mariner Nine, in 1971, had radio failure there. It could be a coincidence..." On the other hand it could be something familiar to every Kurt Vonnegut fan, his deus ex machina, a hiccup in Spacetime called 'The Chronosynclastic Infundibulum'!

Later, as Viking One neared its destination, its on-board cameras started to send back strange pictures of the Martian surface. Harold Masursky at Pasadena was quoted in the Daily Mirror 26 June 1976, on some features visible from 940 miles up: "We often see

things in these pictures that remind us of things on earth. This looks like features that we see in aerial photographs on earth, but they all turn out to be roads." Masursky thought the idea of roads on Mars "a little extreme". Fortunately the scientists were never pressed by events for long, for as the craft neared the surface,all trace of the lines, like the famous canals before them, vanished. It seems to us they knew we were coming. (Cr: also to A Bell for item in the Yorkshire Post, same date.)

Perhaps the best summary to date of the findings and interpretations of Mars data is in New Scientist 29 July 1976. However, one photo you won't find in it is the following, published in the Daily Mail 27 July 1976 (Cr: Ken Rogers), apparently showing the Roman letter 'B' inscribed on one of the central rocks in Viking's view...



...The official explanation (there's always one, Virginia) is the peculiar Martian light playing tricks with chance erosion. With a bit of luck the rest of the message will appear on other rocks in the weeks to come. ((I'm taking bets on "ugger Off!)). Post Script: Having said you wont find this in New Scientist, it inevitably turned up - see the 12 Aug 1976 issue for confirmation of the mark on the rock, but for once, no explanation.

As we go to press, the Viking Mission Control, at Pasadena, announce that some of the orbital photos reveal a peculiar ground feature they liken to "a ploughed field". Dr Michael Carr, jested about them being artifacts, but confessed that they were not dunes, being regularly spaced and "changing direction". He could give no explanation - Daily Telegraph 19 Aug 1976 (Cr: Ken Rogers).

CHINESE METEORITES.

On 8th March a large fireball exploded over Kirin city in the province of Kirin, and according to the official Chinese news agency Hsinhua, it yeilded more than a 100 meteorites of 200lbs each, the largest weighing nearly 1½tons, believed to be a record for recovered stoney meteorites. The smallest weighed less than a ½lb. The fall occured in an area of 260 sq miles on the outskirts of Kirin, in north-eastern China, and despite a population of more than 100,000 in the area, no one was hurt. It began nearly 2 minutes after 3pm and lasted just half a minute before the largest chunk buried itself 18ft in the ground,having smashed through 5½ft of frozen soil. The final crater was about 10ft deep. Its atmosphere entry speed was reckoned at 7.5 miles per second. Newcastle Journal (Cr: Paul Screeton), Royal Gazette (Bermuda) (Cr: Phil Ledger), Los Angeles Times (Cr: MA Hall), Daily Telegraph (Cr: Mrs V Martin.) all dated 22 April 1976. See also an extensive report in Peking Review (19:18) 30 April 1976, and China Reconstructs (25:8) August 1976.

RUSSIAN METEORITES.

The Academy of Sciences seems to be very busy these days, intensifying its interest in meteorites. It seems to be mounting quite a few expeditions to search them out - both geologically ancient falls and those preserved in folk memory - and to judge from recent reports they are having much success. We have the following notes on file:

A 2276 gram meteorite was found in Chukotka, north-east Siberia, during the clearing of a brook. It is 90% iron with nickel and cobalt traces, has a lamellar structure of large crystals. Its age has not been ascertained yet. Novosti Bulletin 15916.

According to the Soviet Weekly 11 Oct 1975 (Cr: Bryan Hartley) two meteorites, each about half a ton, are being excavated in the Soviet far-east (place unidentified). A rain of 'meteors' was reported from the district on 12 Feb 1947, falling over a wide area, shattering rocks and leaving 24 craters of 30-90ft diameter and nearly a 100 smaller ones.

An iron meteorite weighing an estimated 25 tons before it fragmented as it fell in the Sihote-Alin mountains about 30 years ago has finally been dated as 450 million years old. Novosti Bulletin 36589.

Searches for a meteorite that fell near Omsk in 1922, have, since that time, repeatedly failed to locate it. The puzzle was finally solved by Prof Dravert of the Omsk Mineralogical Institute...it was being used by a local farmer as a weight on the lid of a barrel in which he ferments his sauerkraut! Sunday Express 20 June 1976, Reveille 16 July 1976 (Cr: Steve Moore.)

SUDANESE METEORITE.

A 5 kg stone meteorite that fell in the Malakal region of the Sudan 3 years ago, has been dated by Soviet scientists at 570 million years old, from fragments sent to the

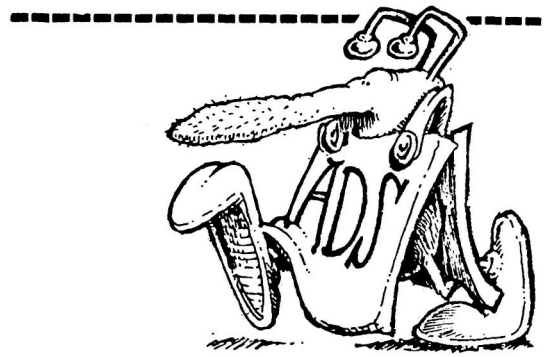
Academy of Sciences by Khartoum University. The apparent youth of the object (most meteorites are thousands of millions of years old) suggested it had undergone several collisions with other bodies as it fell through space, gaining some traces of other elements and losing some radiogenic gases, Novosti Bulletin 14430.

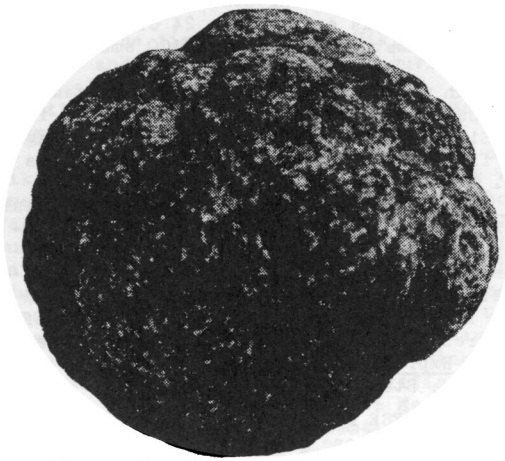
NEAR MISS FOR NORTH AMERICA.

According to Time 4 March 1974 (Cr: Ion Will), a meteor streaked across the sky above Salt Lake City to pass over Idaho and Montana before disappearing north of Calgary, Canada, on 10 Aug 1972. The event was observed by a US Air Force satellite but the details were not released until the end of February 1974 - perhaps just as well. The 1000 ton meteor was hurtling along at 33,000 mph and just missed our planet by a heart-stopping 36 miles. It was about 13ft across and could have caused devastation on a scale not seen since Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

A GIFT FROM THE GODS.

So-called primitive societies have been scorned because they believe curious or powerful natural phenomena had or generated magical powers and properties. Ground struck by lighting is held sacred the world over, a sign of a god's passing, and never used for burial. Similarly meteorites acquired magical reputations, as talismans (the Kaaba, eg) or (being virtually a steel) being forged into swords whose potency was clear to all. Well here we are in the 20th century and must apply the word primitive to ourselves for the same reason. According to the Sunday People 11 January 1976 (Cr: many) Lady Eve Stuart Knill found this meteorite five years ago at Edingworth, near Bristol - lying on a road! It doesn't say if its meteoric origin has been confirmed, but at least Lady Eve insists on calling the orange-sized thing by that name. She says that on impulse one day, she rubbed the stone on her shoulders where she had long suffered arthritis "and the pain stopped." She did the same for her feet and ganglion sores on her hands with equal success. News of the curative powers of the stone reached the ears of Dr Jack Fowler, a cancer research specialist at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, who was intrigued enough to borrow it from Lady Eve to experiment with it on mice. His idea is that it is radioactive in a begnign ((yes Virginia, that is a typewriter word)) mode. We wrote to Dr Fowler some time ago, and needless to say we have no reply to date. It is interesting to note an archetypal structure to this story - as in the accounts of so many discoveries we have a chance (almost unbelievable) finding of an item and the impulse of intuition in putting it to use, almost as though it was the logical and natural thing to do!





The meteorite . . . "like a cannon-ball."

BUFORA Conference 1976, Friday 5 Nov - Sunday 7 Nov, at Centre Hotel, Birmingham. Fee: £5 to members. Contact Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Gt Manchester.

The Northern UFO Network (NUFON) will be holding a meeting with W Raymond Drake, in Manchester on 23 October, to which those interested are invited. Inquiries to Jenny Randles: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester M30 6NT. ((Illuminatus-spotters won't have missed those 23s - Ed)).

A lavish conference organised by the Institute of Parascience, will be held at the City University, Northampton Sq, London EC1V 4PB, Friday 27 August to Sunday 29 August. Apart from discussing latest developments in the parascience field, some of the planned talks link the subject with UFOs. Non-members £3; members £2,per day. Last minute bookings and info, contact: Peter Maddock, Parascience Conference 1976 c/o City University (tel: 01 253 4399).

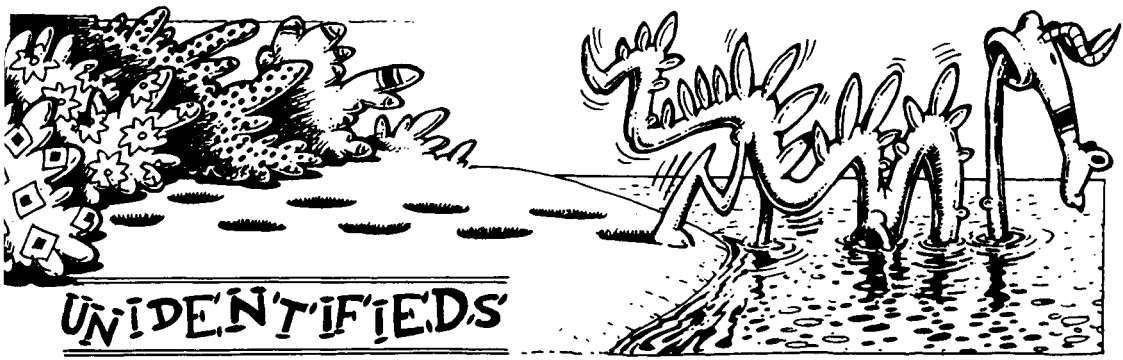
*** Tim Church is interested in obtaining material on UK mystery animals - will swap for similar USA material or any other subject. Contact Tim: Box 932, Missoula, Mont 59801, USA.

*** Frank Adey has a Kirlian photography kit (Edscorp, USA) for sale (£45). 130 Victoria st, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 1DW.

*** Your Editor wishes to move to London, for various obscure reasons - so if anyone there knows of a vacant flat that could house two and a roomfull of books, please let him know ASAP...(ideally, unfurnished & s/c...).

*** Dr EC Krupp writes that he is to lecture on 'Fads & Myths in the Name of Science' at the University of California, Los Angeles, throughout this Fall. Topics include UFOs, Bermuda Triangle, Phantom Zoo (ABSM, Bigfoot, Nessie, etc), Pyramid Power, the Earth Spirit, Velikovsky, Continents Lost & Found, Ancient Astronauts, etc. Those interested contact UCLA.

*** Fortean Times Poster, silk-screened in four colours by Hunt Emerson - £1.00/$2.00 (inc. slo-post); free if you donate this sum or more to our survival fund.



OLIVER...WHO?

"Why haven't we heard about Oliver?" an irate reader wrote to me. Truth is I didn't know much about him myself - nobody had sent us any data. But we opened an Oliver file and magically the data appeared, not much, but some info and a story.

Sometime in the second week of January this year, we heard a radio news item that a man was hiding out on the west coast of the USA with a baby Bigfoot he had aquired. We didn't think much of this until CW Murray sent us a page from Time 12 Jan 1976, which named man and beast - a New York lawer, Michael Miller, and a creature resembling a "bald chimpanzee with an ear job and a sour disposition." Miller was said to have bought Oliver from an animal show for $10,000.

This stirred our normally sieve-like memory, and sure enough, we found in Pursuit (Oct 1975) a description by Robert E Jones, of a visit he made with another SITU member to a South African owner of an animal act, Frank Burger. This act featured a peculiar chimp called Oliver. Berger claimed that in his seven years of life Oliver had never gone on all fours, preferring to walk on two legs. He has very little hair on his chest and head, which is domed and has a squared-off jawline. His eyes and ears are not like those of normal chimps. His intelligence is exceptional: give him a quarter and he'll go off to a soft-drink dispensing machine and bring back a bottle. Apparently he even uses the human's toilet, flushing it afterwards. Jones said that specialists at a NY university thought Oliver was a mongoloid chimp, which is hard to accept in view of the claims that he is much brighter than ordinary chimps. Jones and his colleague thought Oliver a cross-breed between chimp and a "Sehite or Agogwe, the pygmy ABSM reported for many years in Central Africa."

CHIMPLIKE CREATURE CALLED OLIVER
A peculiar fascination for humans.

Two items in the Sun for 4 March 1976: that Miller was claiming Oliver to be an important discovery and may be the "missing link" between apes and men (Cr: Ivan Bunn); and

cont on p20...

BLACK DOGS and WATER

by Ivan Bunn

I was very interested in Steev Moore's articles on Greenwich Phenomena, and in particular his suggestion of a link between 'Black Dog' apparitions and water.

Over the past twelve months I have been collecting Black Dog stories from all over East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire). This region is steeped in Black Dog lore, with the most famous (or infamous?) being 'Black Shuck'. Initially I was only concerned with the collection and collation of Black Dog legends, some of which are many generations old. Then it occurred to me that if the creature had been so prolific in years gone by it would be interesting to see if I could obtain any recent first-hand accounts of it.

To this end I wrote to local newspapers throughout the region and I was astounded at the response. I have now collected over forty first-hand accounts of East Anglian Black Dogs spanning the last fifty years or so.

These stories all exhibit many common factors, but there is definitely one common denominator: almost without exception the location in which the dog has been seen is very close to, or on, a river or the coast, as a cursory glance at the accompanying map shows.

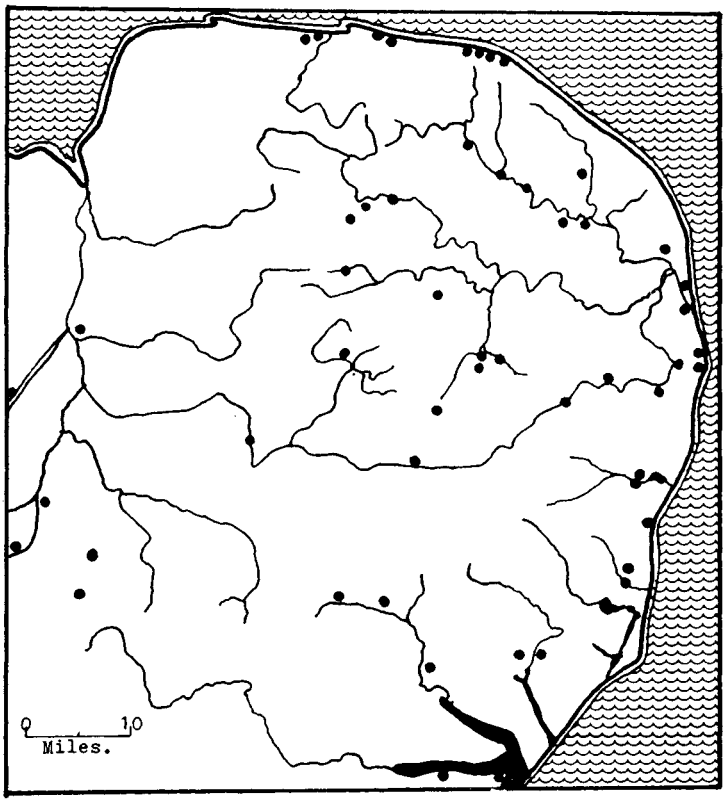
Perhaps at this juncture I should point out that the rivers marked on this map are the principal rivers of the area and do not include lesser tributaries or streams. The Black Dog locations marked on the map include every single one that I have reference to (both from local legend and first-hand accounts), and I have not just plotted those that occur on or near water. This map only covers a portion of the area from which I have obtained Black Dog stories, but the pattern is the same all over. As a matter of interest I did a breakdown of all the stories and legends (62 in all) to find the Black Dog/water relationship, if any. The results are quite startling, as the table shows... ((see foot of next page -Ed))

In a number of cases details were too scanty to plot exactly where the Black Dog was seen. In these cases I have taken the measurement to the furthest point possible from the river/sea within the bounds of the area stated in the legend.

Further evidence of this predeliction that Black Dogs seem to have for water can be found in an article written by Ethel Rudkin in 1938 (1). Miss Rudkin did an intensive survey of the Black Dog legends and stories of Lincolnshire. In her article she also comments on the fact that the majority of the stories of the Dog occur near rivers, streams and ponds.

In part three of his article, Steev comments on the fact that Black Dogs seem to occur mostly on level or low-lying ground. This is also true of over 95% of stories that I have collected. Steev also says that "Black Dogs are not entirely yin. They have the power of movement, which is a yang characteristic, and several Black Dog accounts mention them having large, blazing red eyes, which would indicate a certain yangness."

His first statement is unquestionably true, but I have reservations about the second. A large proportion of the legendary accounts of East Anglian Black Dogs do indeed mention 'large blazing eyes'. However, I have not yet received one first-hand account which mentions this characteristic. Almost without exception, eye witnesses talk of a large (sometimes huge) black dog which is often likened to a Great Dane. The dog is usually silent and appears and disappears very suddenly. In about 50% of these accounts the witnesses state that shortly after their encounter with the Black Dog a close relative has died suddenly. In fact the creature is generally regarded as a portent of death. I would venture to suggest that the 'large blazing eyes' are a feature which has been added to older stories and legends to add a bit of weight and colour.



NORFOLK and SUFFOLK

with county boundaries omitted, and showing PRINCIPAL RIVERS and sites of some BLACK DOG LEGENDS.

East Anglia (and Norfolk and Suffolk in particular) is still predominantly a rural area, and it is interesting to note that reports of MAs (except Black Dogs) are very few and far between. So it seems that Steev's suggestion that MAs are just modern versions of Black Dog apparitions, seen by more ignorant/knowledgeable city-dwellers, stands up well.

Most readers will no doubt have noticed that I have made very little reference to yin and yang. This is simply because my knowledge of the subject is almost nil, to say the least. However, I found Steev's arguments and hypothesis very interesting and thought provoking, and they have given me plenty of ideas for further research in the East Anglian 'Black Dog' apparitions. Thanks Steev.

Naturally, if any readers can supply me with more details of Black Dogs, either East Anglian or from further afield, I would certainly be very pleased to hear of them.

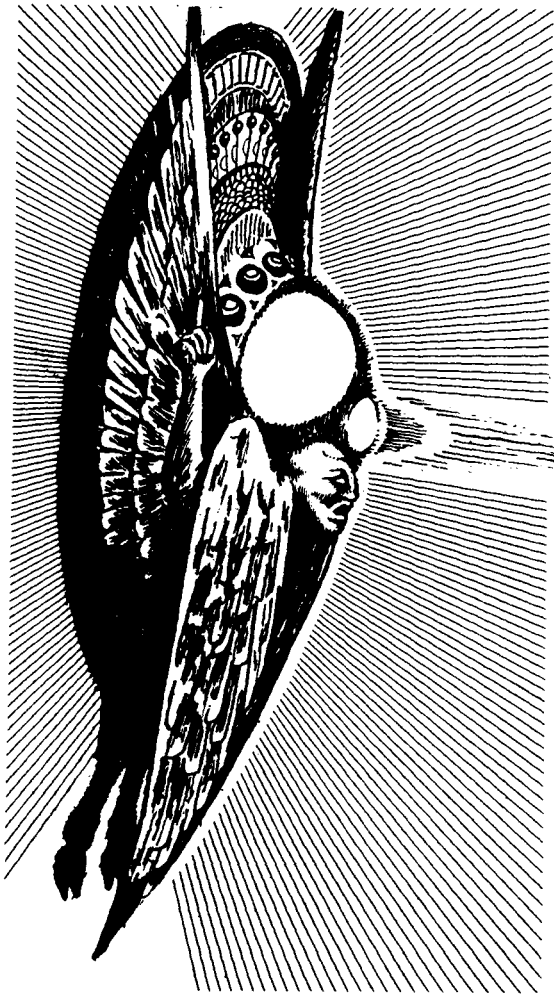
Ivan Bunn, 1976.

LOCATION TABLE

A.	Apparition seen on or very near a main river:	15 cases
B.	" " on or very near the sea/coast:	15 cases
C.	" " within a mile of the river/sea:	16 cases
D.	" " " two miles of the river/sea:	9 cases
E.	" " " three miles of the river/sea:	4 cases
F.	" " " four miles of the river/sea:	1 case
G.	" " " five miles or more of the river/sea:	2 cases

REFERENCE
1) Ethel Rudkin: The Black Dog. Folklore, Vol 49, 1938.

((Ivan edits the BSIG journal, Lantern, and readers wishing to contact him about Black Dogs can write to him at: 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk -.Ed.))



"..it is not enough to distinguish supernatural imaginative visions from the natural products of the imagination; we must also distinguish them from diabolical visions...images which the devil is able to produce in us never go beyond our previous knowledge or the natural scope of our mind. Even if he should provoke heavenly images of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, or the saints and heavenly joys, or else infernal images of spectres, devils, infinite despair, or again, the most seductive pictures of human passion, there will be no new revelation, no prophecy, nothing transcendental...the transcendence of imaginative visions ►

If the last two centuries have seen the rise of materialism and its handmaiden, Science, it has also seen the parallel rise in the unexplained, much to the former's discomfort. Never before has interest in mysticism, spiritualism, cult religion, the occult, and indeed anything else which actually or apparently contradicts the edicts of scientists, been so great or open. And almost as if the universe has obliged us, never before has there been such frequency and variety in mystics, visions, miracles, ghosts and poltergeists, monsters, UFOs and their attendant menagerie, or the whole range of Fortean phenomena. This year alone must have topped any previous record, as FT readers will have grasped, if not by now then by the time we have published all our bulging files. There are radical new discoveries and theories waiting in the wings of nearly every scientific discipline, the assimilation of just a few of which could change the face of science as we have known it. Bold explorers have been opening up our conception of reality itself by recognising whole new fields of phenomena not previously included in the scientific world-view. We have so few ways of guiding ourselves into the Unknown that we could do much worse than rely on Farges' distillation of the wisdom of Sts Teresa and Thomas Aquinas (above) reserving, of course, our interpretation of the religious jargon. Another way of summarising it would be that only the truly mad or the truly sane have any claim to certainty, the rest of us as shades inbetween have only degrees of doubt - doubt first and foremost about whether our world-view (or 'description' to use Castaneda's term) corresponds at all, if it ever did, with what is really going on in the universe. For one thing we know the universe is reflexive (I prefer this term to Keel's use of 'imitative' or 'mimicing' - see The Mothman Prophecies, 1975), and this reflexion involves the human mind and perception in ways we scarcely dare to accept let alone understand.

John Keel was probably the first of the new breed of explorers to extend the phenomenon of enigmatic entities in UFO cases beyond the confines of the extraterrestrial (ET) concept, recognising the continuity with their counterparts in the mythology of religion and folklore. More recently Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman established this legitimate insight,in their The Unidentified, by showing that beneath the form of the myth lay complex patterns of archetypal processes. This puts a different complexion on previous interpretations of strange entities.

will always be a characteristic of the divine, which it is impossible for the devil to imitate or falsify. This is the first test."

Mgr. Albert Farges, Mystical Phenomena (1926) p335f.

BIRDMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE!

by RJM Rickard.

There are now two modes of interpretation in the ultraterrestrial (UT) school, of reports of weird entities in UFO contact cases or associated phenomena, and it is likely that both have a role to play in the drama. The first view assumes that the contact experience was a 'private' affair and that some sort of personal relationship exists primarily between the percipient and the phenomena (which may not have been entirely subjective) EG. in the case of the images that appeared on Stella Lansing's films (FSR 20:4-6, 21:1) Dr Berthold Schwarz suggests generally that psychoanalysis of contactees may help expose subconscious veins of experience, expectation, psychoses etc being mined for the imagery of the experience. (Further, that the UFO may be in a strong psychodynamic relationship with the percipient, acting in effect as a catalyst ((or psychoanalyst)) in drawing the material out into the consciousness to be experienced -- FSR 20:5 p22& 24).

But although this could account for personal details of the experience (NB: the many references to personal relationships with entities, telepathy etc, and the entities knowing personal details about the percipient, and indeed some of the phenomena having a direct dream-like relationship to events in the percipients life), it is very weak in accounting for the form of the experience as related by many people all round the world, and as Keel, Clark & Coleman, and Vallee (Passport to Magonia) have shown, in previous centuries too. The morphology of the contact experience is remarkably consistent for all times and places, whether these entities be angels, fairies, elementals, demons, BHMs, the 'eternals' or 'Secret Chiefs' who initiate mortals, MAs, BVMs, the pilots of craft from other realities, or the winged weirdos called variously 'mothmen', 'batmen' or 'birdmen'. Even more significant is that this morphology shows a continuity between mythology, subjective visionary experience, and apparently objective reality. ((This has tremendous implications for Fortean data, and your editor's book with John Michell sets out to explore these.)) Thus the second view of the UT hypothesis, that the psychodynamic drama being played out, draws on deeper

levels of the psyche, the archetypes of unconscious symbolism. On this level there is little that relates to the percipient that does not also relate to every human mind on the planet. I venture to suggest the experience may even be deeper than that, and that what we are seeing is participation in the unconscious life process of this planet, considering the planet as a living complex symbiotic whole, just as a man's dreams may be related in a distant and impersonal way to the individual cells of his body. Both views are valid since each refers to a different level of the experience.

Most of you know of Keel's special interest in the 'mothmen' of West Virginia (from 1966), and some of you may know that Keel summarised most of the known similar reports from earlier days in a chapter in Strange Creatures from Time & Space - these range from Brooklyn (1877), through Nebraska (1922),to the 1946 'Ghost Rocket' scare in Scandinavia. ((I can recommend readers, interested in the subject, Loren E Gross' booklet The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets (1974) - see our review section under his Fort/UFO booklet, for details.)) Last issue we gave a report from Doc Shiels (FT 16/19) on a 'birdman' (or 'owlman' as Doc prefers) seen at Mawnan, Cornwall, during the sea-monster scare - well we have had several more communications from Doc on further sightings. So we decided to dig around to present a few of the cases not included in Keel's books, or that have happened since. Firstly, though, we make the following portentous announcement:

THE KING OF CELESTIAL BEINGS

is coming! The 16th of April 1976 was the first day of the year 1338 in the Burmese calendar - and according to a note in the Bangkok Post, 17 April 1976 (Cr: Ion Will) astrologers have pointed out that this is the appointed time in which the king of celestial beings will come down to earth with a sickle in one hand and a scimitar in the other to fight the galon, a gigantic bird with supernatural powers. As if on cue, the 'owlman' of Mawnan was first seen on the 17th April. Before that though, we have the 'birdman' in Texas, seen in January. This may indeed turn out to be the Year of the Galon! But before we get onto these 1976 reports, let's stay in the far East, not far from Burma, where a marine in Vietnam saw a winged crittur in 1969.

THE WINGED LADY IN BLACK.

One night in July or August 1969, at about 1 or 1.30am, Pfc Earl Morrison was on guard duty, casually talking with two colleagues, when suddenly all three looked into the sky and saw a glowing figure coming towards them "real slowly. All of a sudden we saw what looked like wings, like a bat's, only it was gigantic compared to what a regular bat would be. (As it got closer, they could see) it looked like a woman. A naked woman. She was black. Her skin was black... the wings were black, everything was black. But it glowed. It glowed in the night - kind of a greenish cast to it...she glowed and threw off a radiance." The creature's flapping wings were noiseless, and appeared to be supported by normal arms "each with a hand and fingers and everything, but they had skin from the wings going over them...It looked like (they) didn't have any bones in them, because they were limber just like a bat." The vision lasted about 3-4 minutes and all the while the men were frozen, stunned by what they saw. "..about 10 feet or so away from us, we started hearing her wings flap. And it sounded...like regular wings flapping." As a passing observation, I have noted that a flapping sound or vibration is a frequent detail, not only in contact experiences, but in many poltergeist cases, often described as "like an invisible bird". This winged lady was reported to FSR Case Histories (June 1972, p14f) by Don Worley, who transcribed the story from a taped interview, and who vouches for the veracity of the main witness.

cont on next page...

Lexilinks (refs) cont...

19) ((I seem to remember this was suggested in an article in The Ley Hunter by Mollie Carey, but I cannot find the issue after searching the heaps on my shelves. Her drawing of a beacon on the flat top of the mound was distinctly suggestive of a rodball. A coincidental discovery while I searched for that TLH may shed further light (literally) on the subject. In Andrew Tomas' Atlantis (Sphere 1973) he mentions that a delegate to a conference on streetlighting, in Pretoria 1963, spoke of the accomplishments of a tribe of Amazons located in the jungles of New Guinea, near Mount Wilhelmina. Traders reported they had 12ft diameter stone spheres mounted on columns and radiating an actinic light (p88)!!- Ed.))

20) Ivan T Sanderson, Uninvited Visitors 1969 (Tandem 1974).

MORE SEE MAWNAN'S OWLMAN.

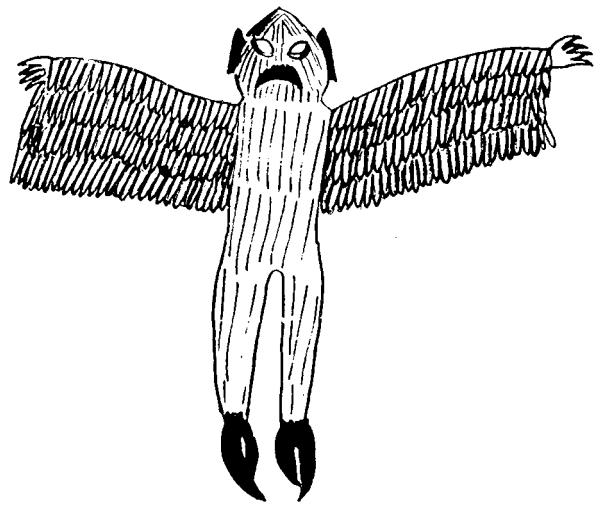
The drawings on this page were sent to us by Doc Shiels in a letter dated 10 July 1976 - but in an earlier letter, he had hinted that the Owlman was back: "He's been seen again, I'm told, about a week ago ((as of 11 May)) over the village of Lamorna." Doc thought this might be a rumour because Lamorna is "quite a few miles outside Morgawr ((the local sea serpent)) territory. Maybe McCormick's talk about the Texan 'Big Bird' created Cornwall's version ...I know he mentioned it to several newsmen." (For data on McCormick, Morgawr and the Owlman's first appearance see FT 16). But just in case our overseas readers think any of these subjects got a coverage that could be noticed let me say that the press as a whole has been singularly silent; the only items being tiny generalised sarcasms tucked away in the back pages, and a couple of larger stories -but all on Morgawr, nothing on the Owlman, and minimal stuff on the Texan 'Big Bird'...in both cases our data comes from local papers (though the Big Bird got quite a lot of coverage in US papers).

Back to the latest on the Owlman. On 10 July, Doc wrote, saying: "The Owlman has been seen by two 14-year-old girls, Sally Chapman from Plymouth, staying with her friend Barbara Perry (who would only say that she lived 'quite near the river'). I met them last Sunday morning (the 4th) on Grebe Beach. They simply came up to me and said: 'Are you Doc Shiels? We've seen the bird monster.' We chatted, and they both drew pictures of the thing in my sketchbook. Now...it's a fact that the girls had read the Morgawr booklet (*) and seen me interviewed on the telly, so they both knew, in advance, about the 'thing' and had a fair idea of what he

****

* MORGAWR: The Monster of Falmouth Bay, by A Mawnan-Peller; a neat summary of the ancient & modern history of the Cornish sea serpent, plus its friends. Available from: 'Puck Fare', Ponsanooth, Truro, Cornwall, at 25p by post.

I saw this monster bird last night. It stood like a man then it flew up through the trees. It is as big as a man. Its eyes are red and shine brightly. Sally Chapman 4/7/76.



Birdman monster. Seen on 3rd July, quite late at night but not quite dark. Red eyes. Black mouth. It was very big with great big wings and black claws. Feathers grey. B. Perry 4th July 1976.

was supposed to look like...so it's quite possible that they invented the whole story to play a joke on this eccentric monster hunter. BUT...in various ways, they convinced me they could have seen it."

"They were camping out for the night among the trees not far from Mawnan Church ((site of the 17 April sighting)) . These trees cover the banks of the river for a great part of its length, above the rocky beaches. They were brewing-up around 10pm when they both heard a peculiar 'hissing' noise close by. Then they saw it, about 20 yards away (no more, they both assured me), standing among the pine trees. Sally said: 'It was like a big owl with pointed ears, as big as a man. The eyes were red and glowing. At first, I thought it was someone dressed up, playing a joke, trying to scare us. I laughed at it, we both did, then it went up in the air and we both screamed. When it went up, you could see its feet were like pincers.'"

"Barbara said: 'It's true. It was horrible, a nasty owl-face with big ears and big red eyes. It was covered in grey feathers. The claws on its feet were black. It *just flew straight up and disappeared in the* treetops.'"

"It seems they only saw the thing for a matter of seconds. The main things they noticed were its owl-like appearance, its size, the red glowing eyes and the 'claw-like pincers'. After they'd talked to me for awhile, I asked them to draw the pictures, separately, without either seeing the other's until they'd both finished. They agreed on most points, though Sally thought Barbara had 'done the wings wrong'".

Doc also sent a clipping from the Fal Mouth Packet, 9 July 1976, on an almost identical sighting by another young girl, on the same Sunday morning that Sally and Barbara were telling Doc about their experience the night before. The letter to the Packet is from Jane Greenwood, of Southport, and reads: "I am on holiday in Cornwall with my sister and our mother. I too have seen a big bird-thing like that pictured in the Morgawr booklet. It was Sunday (4th) morning and the place was in the trees near Mawnan Church, above the rocky beach. It was in the trees standing like a full-grown man, but the legs bent backwards like a bird's. It saw us and quickly jumped up and rose straight up through the trees. My sister and I saw it very clearly before it rose up. It has red slanting eyes and a very large mouth. The feathers are silver grey and so are his body and legs. the feet are like big black crabs claws. We were frightened at the time. It was so strange, like something out of a horror film. After the thing went up there were crackling sounds in the treetops for ages. Our mother thinks we made it all up just because we read about these things, but that is not true. We really saw the bird man, though it could have been somebody playing a trick in very good costume and make-up. But how could it rise up like that? If we imagined it, then we both imagined the same thing at the same time."

And we might add, how did two pairs of young girls see almost identical things (one on the 3rd, one on the 4th), in the same place, apparently without collusion? The Morgawr booklet makes no mention of red eyes, black claws or the silver colour of the feathers, and its mention of "flapping wings" is absent from these girls' stories which both agree the thing was on the ground first then "rose" into the air in an unfamiliar way which startled them very much. We are very struck by the detail of the claw-like feet, which remind us of the entities who kidnapped Hickson and Parker at Pascagoula, in 1973 (see Ralph Blum's Beyond Earth, 1974) who had claws instead of hands.

We have discovered only two English bird-men cases before these modern ones, though according to Frank Hamel's Human Animals (1915 &1973) when English witches *flew to their Sabbat, they frequently took* the form of an owl, more so than any other bird. The oldest case is mentioned in the Morgawr booklet: that according to the Cornish Echo for 4 June 1926, two young boys were attacked by a peculiar, very large and aggressive "feathered thing", between Mount Hawke ((a suitable name, that)) and Porthtowan. Apparently it was hunted and eventually killed, and the body defied identification by all who saw it. If this was simply an attack by a bird alien to Britain, then note too the house at Newlyn, Cornwall, under attack by birds about the same time, but 50 years later (14 June 1976) in our bird-attack section, earlier. ((Also on this tack, Doc, in a letter of 19 June, mentions: "Birds have been acting strangely, in a Hitchcockian manner, down here, recently...Is it a coincidence that Daphne du Maurier (who wrote 'The Birds') and Frank Baker (who wrote 'Our Feathered Friends' - a nice horror story on which 'The Birds' was based) both live in Cornwall..? A fellow called Paul Francis, a fisherman, was telling me how oddly the gulls were behaving these days, attacking fishing boats, stealing bait from mackerel lines, etc. It all ties in. of course."))

The other UK birdman case happened in 1963, at Sandling Park, Hythe, Kent, and is definitely linked to UFOs. A group of young people were walking along a country road when they realised that a light in the sky was descending towards them. They "felt cold all over" and ran, but the light kept pace with them, 80yds away and 10ft above a field, until it disappeared behind some trees. Then they felt they were being watched.

"..the next thing (they) knew was that a dark figure was shambling across the field towards them. It seemed to be completely black, human-sized, but with no head. One strange feature was that it appeared to have wings of the kind associated with bats... with webbed feet.." (cf The Humanoids by Charles Bowen; Futura 1974 p20). The kids didn't wait, but ran. In the days that followed there were more sightings of lights, and discovery of flattened bracken, and large footprints. As a matter of interest we note that in the last week of June 1976 there were several UFO sightings in Cornwall (ie a few days prior to the two Owlman sightings). The first by a group of boys camping near Rock, near Wadebridge, of a light in the sky they thought was a UFO, and accompanied by a "spine-chilling sound" (The West Briton 1 July 1976 -- their schoolmaster later tried to debunk this as an aircraft and the calls of a peacock (!); his name was given as Mr Fernley Furze). The second was by a housewife of The Beacon, Falmouth, who saw three "fireballs" at 12.30 am on 1st July, over St Mawes and Flushing. This lady, who wished to remain anonymous, felt it was a "personal experience..it may be some intelligence contacting me as an individual." ((The nature of telepathic surveillance, as I mentioned earlier, seems to be interpreted as a personal contact, or a feeling of being watched.)) This story is from the Falmouth Packet 9 July 1976. (Cr: on both to Doc Shiels).

THE TEXAS BIG BIRD.

The collection of reports we have are a bit jumbled - so we venture this chronological reconstruction. Sometime in November 1975 rumours of a giant bird-like creature, the size of a car, which glided silently in the night sky, were born during a sighting over a childrens' playground in Robstown, near Corpus Christi, Texas. Since then there have been a steady trickle of reports from places located along the Rio Grande valley, on the Mexican border. San Benito police chief Ted Cortez said that in December 1975, a terrified man rushed into the department saying he'd seen it, and later "two kids came over and said they saw it. It had a kind of bald head like a monkey."

During the first days of January 1976, the reports increased. A TV station at Harlingen showed a photograph of giant bird-like prints in a freshly-ploughed field. They had three toes, and were 9" wide by 12" long. That same day, two San Benito policemen, in separate cars, reported seeing a huge bird with a 15ft wingspan gliding over the city. Arturo Padilla said: "It more or less looked like a stork or pelican type of bird, with a wing-span like a pretty good sized car. It was white. I've done a lot of hunting but I've never seen anything like it." Experts (who never saw the thing) later dismissed it as a blue heron. That same week Alverico Guajardo reported to the police that something hit his mobile-home with a sound like a sandbag. He ushered his wife and child into the home, grabbed a knife, and drove to the trailer's back in his car. There he saw a terrifying creature "4ft tall, with eyes like silver dollars, wings like a bird, and a face like a bat."

At Rio Grande City, 75 miles west of San Benito, the Sheriff spoke of rumours for the last 45 days of a giant bird in the area, and that there were reports that a half-man half-bird thing perched on top of the courthouse - but he emphasised he had no evidence to believe the stories were anything but rumours. By mid-January station KRIO in McAllen was offering a reward of $1000 to anyone who captures the monster alive and brings it to the station's studio. Despite this, nothing seems to have been seen of the BigBird until 24 Feb, when three teachers described two giant birds that swooped on their cars. Patricia Bryant, in one car, said they were "as big as a Piper Cub plane, with a wingspan of 15-20ft or more". She later identified it as similar to a picture of a pteranodon in an encyclopedia. "It was the biggest thing I've seen alive, particularly flying. My Lord, it lived 160 million years ago. It's just unreal. Where did it come from? How could it have survived all those millions of years and still be flying around here? It's enough of a shock to see one. Then to discover two is really frightening. It happened so fast and was such a shock. It was enormous and frightening." The other two teachers, David Rendon and Marsha Dahlberg, said one of the birds flew low over their cars, and cast a shadow over the entire road, and when they stopped they saw another one circling like a buzzard over a herd of cattle. Bryant added: "I could see the skeleton of this bird through the skin or feathers or whatever and it stood out black against the background of the grey feathers." School officials urged the teachers not to discuss the matter on campus for fear of frightening the children, and the school is identified only as a "rural district school". There is a brief statement of what "scientists believe", which demystified adds up to (and get this): it can't have been a pteranodon because they didn't have feathers. I bet they think that clears up the mystery too! Fontana Herald-News (CA), 12 Jan; Vancouver Sun (BC), Chicago Tribune (IL), 13 Jan; Houston Chronicle (TX), 14 Jan; Pretoria News (South Africa), 15 Jan; Thunder Bay Chronicle (Ont), 17 Jan; Houston Chronicle (TX), 26 Feb; Toronto Sun (Ont), 27 Feb 1976. (Cr: Crawford, MX, Mark A Hall, Chris Holtzhausen.)

A recent letter from Jerome Clark told us of his personal investigations into the Big Bird reports (to be published in the October 1976 issue of Oui). Jerry warns that some of the reports must be approached with some caution: that the "much-cited sighting at San Benito by two policemen was almost certainly of a conventional bird. The famous 'attack' at Eagle Pass appears to have been nothing more than a clumsy hoax. Still, there were authentic encounters with a shape-changer, as there have been in the San Benito area particularly for the past 3 decades."

...LASTLY, BUT NOT THE END...

A few loosely connected comments. Doc rightly reminds us of the creatures relatives, the Harpies (which incidentally are suggested by Jungians as a symbol of the negative anima), the Garuda (a divine solar eagle used as a steed by Hindu gods), and the Tengu. The Tengu? I had to look that one up - but I should have known. The Tengus are supernatural birds who can turn themselves into men, and in Japanese folklore are often associated with deceit, but towards true heroes they use their powers of illusion constructively. (They taught Yoshitsune the art of swordsmanship.) Lafcadio Hearn translates a charming tale of a monk who rescues a Tengu from being beaten to death. By way of a reward the Tengu recreates the Buddha's sermon on Mount Gridhrakuta, which the monk had always regretted missing by living many decades after the Great Teaching. The Tengu produces the illusuion of going back in time so well the monk breaks his vow not to worship the image of the Buddha, and is catapulted to the present to confront the severely wounded Tengu - In Ghostly Japan, 1899. Now this vision, instigated by the Tengu, takes place in a pine grove, and glancing back over these pages I see that the site of the three Mawnan experiences were pine woods, and that brought to mind another story - one which may be a vital link in the continuity of the archetype between the phenomenal reality and the collective unconscious.

Geoffrey Hodson was a Theosophist who wrote several books on his experiences of seeing, psychicly, other realms of being and their denizens. In the penultimate chapter of Fairies at Work & at Play (1925) he describes the role of the 'Devas' (shining ones) in nature, most of them being associated with fir or pine trees, but 'overseeing', say, a wood, as a single living unit. One of his entries for June 1922 tells of encountering a deva in an open space on a hill in the Lake District. "My first impression was of a huge, brilliant crimson, bat-like thing, which fixed a pair of burning eyes upon me. The form was not concentrated into the true human shape, but was somehow spread out like a bat with a human face and eyes, and with wings outstretched over the mountainside. As soon as it felt itself to be observed it flashed into its proper shape, as if to confront us, fixed its piercing eyes upon us, and then sank into the hillside and disappeared." Hodson estimated the spread of its 'wings' and 'aura' to be "several hundred feet" sweeping back behind the body in "wing-like sheets", and its final form was about 10-12ft high. It radiated virility and a powerful, raw natural force that profoundly affected Hodson. "My physical body thrilled for hours afterwards with the force of the contact and the rapport established between us." Later Hodson describes some tree-Devas, who rise up to, and move about "at the height of the topmost branches of the trees, and though they occasionally rise further into the air they do not appear to descend to the ground."

RJM Rickard - July 1976

■■

Oliver, cont...

that John Blashford-Snell was flying to NY to examine a captured "missing link" from Zaire, described as an"intelligent hairy pygmy" (Cr: Nigel Watson). These two items are uncorrelated in the paper, but seem to refer to the same case, ie Oliver. Blashford-Snell, some of you may remember, is the man who "solved" the Yeti question as a family of snow-squatting holy-men with big feet (see News 15/11).

The final item we have is from Reveille 2 July 1976 (Cr: Graham Crowley), and refers to Oliver's country of origin less specifically - "the Congo River basin of West Africa" - but it does allude to legends of "hairy men" in that region. Other new information about Oliver is that he has four teeth (no one knows what happened to the rest), and emits a pungent smell most of the time. He also seems to generate "excessive aggression" in other animals towards him, a familiar detail in most stories of mutants (see 'The Malton Mutant' in News 15/6). As to what he is - this item suggests that he is being examined by the "world's top zoologists" who so far have discovered the missing teeth and that Oliver is 7yrs old. Wonderful! they can read newspapers! Actually my sarcasm is directed not at the experts but the fatuous standard of modern reporting which insists on patronising its public by being deliberately facile about scientific details its thought they 'are not interested in'. Reveille says that in tests, scientists have discovered Oliver has "abnormal chromosome levels" whatever the hell they mean by that! No details of any kind, or even a name, are given. Doubtless we haven't heard the last of Oliver...but meantime here's a comment from Hunt Emerson:

A YETI HOAX?

On 24 May 1975, Sri R Das, Superintendent of Police for Dibrugarh district, Assam, announced that tribesmen in the Khamti forest in Arunachal Pradesh had captured a pair of "wildmen", a male and a female, with an estimated height of 10ft. He said that arrangements were being made to ship the creatures to the Tirap district headquarters at Tezu for investigation.

The next day reporters discovered that Das's information had come from a report by the officer-in-charge of the Doom Dooma police station. This officer said his information, in turn, came from widespread talk that the creatures had been captured alive in the Chowkhani part of the forest, about 50 miles from Doom Dooma. He had not been able to find any eye-witnesses or official sources to confirm this. Another unconfirmed report alleged that the creatures were seen in the company (or custody, no one is sure) of personnel of the Military Engineering Service, and a squad of policemen led by an Army captain set out from Doom Dooma to check on this lead.

On the 26th, the officer-in-charge at Doom Dooma said that this squad had been unable to discover any thing at all, and that it looked like the original reports were a hoax. Experts from Gauhati University, as is the wont of experts everywhere, theorised in terms of gibbons and bears. Meanwhile, back at Dibrugarh, Superintendent Das had egg on his face, and rather weakly joked about being amazed how the press could pick up a casual comment made by him on a provincial rumour and blow it up into a full-scale mystery. Perhaps he's right - but we are intrigued by a footnote saying the "experts ruled out the possibility of them being Yeti as they were not to be found at such low altitude." Sounds like some things are taken quite seriously. This story is compiled from reports in the Assam Tribune (Gauhati, India) 25, 26 & 27 May 1975 (Cr: Mark A Hall).

...AND A BIGFOOT KIDNAP HOAX?

Four witnesses said they saw "a large hairy ape-like animal" carry off a 23-yr-old blonde girl, called variously in reports, Sherie Darvell, Cherie Darvell and Sherry Nelson (!), on 22 May this year, in rugged country outside Eureka, California. The beast was described as "smelly" which reminds me that when Archimedes leapt out of his bath yelling "Eureka!" someone said to him, "You don't smella so good yourself!", which just about sums this case up. Not only was it the first time anyone is alleged to have been attacked by a Bigfoot, but the girl was part of a television crew hoping to film the critter. Despite the huge likelihood of a hoax police took the claim that a girl was missing seriously and began a ground and air search. Two days later she turned up outside the Bluff Creek resort, about 5 miles from where she was allegedly abducted. According to statements by the sheriff and his assistants "She was in good shape" with a few minor scratches and bruises on her arms, one of her shoes was missing, and more cynically, "She certainly smelled pretty sweet for having been snatched by a smelly old beast." Sheriff Gene Cox, who is quite unamused, said that attempts to question the girl about what happened in the two days, brought only screams from her and a refusal to answer any more questions. Daily Mirror, (Reading) Evening Post 25 May 1976; (Bermuda) Royal Gazette, (NY) Herald Tribune, 26 May 1976; (NY) Herald Tribune, 27 May 1976 (Cr: Robert Forrest, John Michell, Phil Ledger, Ken Rogers, Steve Moore.)

YETI ATTACK.

The dubious case above put me in mind of the reports of an attack by a yeti last year which has a higher probability of truth, and which, though widely mentioned in the press, I've not seen recorded in any Fortean magazine. We'll remedy that here.

The attack was a few days before 18 July 1974, at a place called Marche, not far from the village of Pheriche, Nepal. A 19-yr-old girl, Lakpa Sherpani, was looking after a herd of yaks, when she says she was knocked unconscious by a yeti which slaughtered her cow and four of the yaks. She described it as: "..about 4 or 5 feet, covered with thick black hair below the waist and brown hair above. It had thick stout fingers with long nails and its heel was turned forward." It killed the yaks, according to some

reports, "by twisting their horns around their necks."(!!) San Francisco Chronicle 18 & 26 July 1974; St Louis Post-Dispatch 18 July 1974; Sunday Times 28 July 1974; Atlanta Journal & Constitution (GA) 9 March 1975, which mentioned that police photos of the footprints did not turn out, that the girl was "still hospitalised", and that her description was remarkably like that given by Sherpa Tenzing in his autobiography , of beasts seen by his father in the Barun glacier, eastern Nepal, of a large pointy-headed monkey, with sunken eyes, walking on its feet about 4ft tall, with its hair growing upward above the waist, and downward below it. (Cr: for these sources: Mark A Hall, Loren Coleman, Phil Ledger, Leslie Shepard.)

Nigel Watson sent us a piece from the Reveille 2 May 1975, which seems to be under the impression the event had only just happened - in fact they were nearly a year late. However they do have some additional quotes from Lhakpa Sherpani on the monster, now said to be "over 7ft". She saw it as it ripped the throat out of her cow and "smashed the yaks' heads with his huge fists. He had a white stripe running down his chest to his stomach and another white stripe from the centre of his forehead to the top of his head. His eyebrows were grey and thick and he had round eyes like an ox. His lips were black and his mouth was large and he had big white teeth like human teeth. His feet looked human except they were covered with hair." There is also a quote from a police Inspector Chatra Nan Ral, who is convinced it was a yeti because "no beast I know of could have mutilated her animals that way. One yak had been ripped apart and savagely gnawed by a beast with phenomenal strength. I found prints at the scene which were not human. Four footprints were about 14" long and 6" wide, and deep indicating the yeti was extremely heavy. There were two handprints." By all accounts it seems as if Lhakpa had a very lucky escape.

MORE BIGFEET TALES.

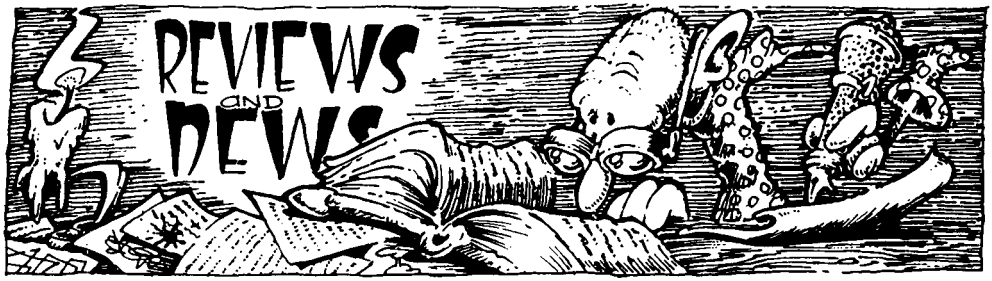
Under the classic Fortean heading of 'Zoo, Police solve Bigfoot mystery' comes the news that in recent months there were numerous reports of a "large hairy creature" roaming in the countryside near Cincinnati, Ohio. After a sighting "last week", police rushed to the scene and made a mould of what they supposed was one of the prints, later identified by the director of Cincinnati Zoo, as "a large dog." And that, as far as officials are concerned, is that - for them the problem has been 'solved', which in the Fortean dictionary means grasping at the most acceptable solution. By acceptable, we mean safe. It's an easy guess for us the matter is far from ended. Houston Chronicle (TX) 2 March 1976 (Cr: Mark A Hall).

Something is leaving giant footprints, 15" long by 6½" wide, in the hills of Alcorn County, Mississippi, near Corinth. They were first spotted on 14 March near Smith Bridge road, north of US 72; since then other huge tracks have been found within 5 miles of Hatchie Chapel. Joe McKewen, a local naturalist, reckons the tracks indicate a creature 8ft tall weighing 450-500lbs. He said a "big hairy creature" was seen by two boys about 2 years ago, knocking down the door of their cabin and scaring them before they ran away - and a farmer saw a BHM ((for convenience we'll use this for big hairy monster, since ABSM seems out of place,not all BHMs being Abominable Snowmen, nor identified as Bigfoot)) in one of his fields. Richmond News Leader (VA) 24 March 1976 (Cr: Mark Hall); Victoria Colonist (BC, Canada) 25 March 1976 (Cr: MX).

A BHM that screeched horribly & walked upright, left a disembowelled and mangled deer carcass at Mill Valley, California, on the north side of San Francisco Bay, where there is a legend of a Bigfoot on Mount Tamalpais. Just after midnight on 23 March this year, Caroline Morris, 26, reported to the police a frightening "screaming, screeching and growling" in a ravine below her hillside home. Two patrolmen also heard the noise when they arrived. They searched the wooded slopes by flashlight and heard something moving through the underbrush, breathing heavily. One of them thought he glimpsed a "large dark coloured thing climbing over an 8ft retaining wall." In the morning they returned to the scene to follow a trail of blood to the deer. Experts thought the deer had been killed by a mountain lion. Los Angeles Times (CA) 26 April 1976 (Cr: Dr EC Krupp.)

A foul-smelling BHM that haunts the Florida Everglades, nicknamed the 'Skunk Ape', has once more eluded capture. Two brothers were driving along a dirt road, near North Fort Myers, when they saw an ape-like creature in a clump of pine trees about 10yds from the road, "about 6ft tall with long black hair." The area was searched, and samples of lice-ridden hair, thought to be from the BHM, were found on a barbed wire fence. They were sent to Dr J Manson Valentine, anthropologist and Atlantis-hunter, of University of Miami, for identification. Atlanta Constitution (GA) 11 June 1976. (Cr: Mark Hall).

SURVIVAL REPORT -- very slowly the number of readers is creeping up. There have been no increases in prices beyond the expected in the last months so we have on paper at last passed our breakeven point on costs. But because not everybody renews at the same time, not all the money is here at one time. We still need more subscribers to iron out the fluctuations and allow us to grow. I hope you will all continue your appreciated help.



RQWZ

This year has seen some exciting changes in the little but far-reaching field of our interests. We changed our name without too much disagreement, and MUFOB, The Ley Hunter and Pursuit have new editors (John Rimmer, Paul Devereux & John A Keel, respectively). Here in the UK the small mag world is particularly precarious and TLH, MUFOB and ourselves have discussed working together in mutual support, and between us three we cover the major fields of current interest. Your editor is also highly chuffed that MUFOB and TLH both consulted him on production matters before finally deciding to switch to very similar formats to ours - the result reinforces our unity of intent, I think. FT also bridges the Atlantic into another triumvirate - forming the 'Big Three' of Forteana - ourselves, INFO Journal and Pursuit. Here too, all the editors involved have expressed their desire to work towards closer cooperation and mutual aid, all of which bodes well for our joint future. The most predictable benefit will be the fast exchange of up-to-date info, etc - from there on there is no limit to joint projects. Stay tuned for developments.

In one of the early issues of The News we gave the address of Tom Miller's Assassin's Information Bureau. Reader Wilfried Pardon wrote saying the address was incorrect or changed. The AIB's new address is: 63 Inman St, Cambridge, Mass 02138, USA. This is not a set-up for would-be assassins, but to disseminate info and investigation reports and theories on assassination mysteries.

According to a news announcement we saw back in May, Mr Spock, aka Leonard Nimoy, is to introduce a new series of TV films, called In Search of ---. The blank will be filled in by 'UFOs', 'Atlantis', 'Bigfoot', etc. Whether these are documentaries or not we can't say. Does any reader know more?

Anthony and Jan Roberts' Zodiac House Publications have scheduled for release at the winter solstice a compendium of articles on the traditions and mysteries of Glastonbury, from John Michell, Mary Caine, Kenneth Knight, and many others, to be called Glastonbury: Ancient Avalon: New Jerusalem. This will be followed in due course by a book on dragons by Paul Screeton; 'Chinese Fox-Faries' by Steve Moore; a gazeteer of major British leys; and a booklet on megalithic 'egg-stones'. Their publication in 1972 of Richard Holder's poems Songs of Mu & Atlantis has a grand follow-up. Canterbury University have commisioned the whole suite to be set to music and performed at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, on Sunday 8th November. Holder has been given full electronic facilities. For details of ZH material, write to: Zodiac House, 7 Hugon Rd, Fulham, London SW6 3EL.

Arthur Shuttlewood and friends have set up an information centre at Warminster as a clearing house for UFO and other local data, accommodation for sky-watchers, and general informed hospitality for questing visitors. The Fountain Centre, Star House, 78 Portway, Warminster, Wiltshire.

Ken Campbell tells us that he has written a cycle of 5 plays, called The Eye in the Pyramid, based on the Illuminatus novels (see book reviews, this issue). From 23rd November (naturally) there will be a different (5 x 23min acts) play each night, from Tuesday to Saturday; and on the Sunday, the entire cycle will be performed in a bum-numbing marathon. The venue is the Liverpool School of Language, Music, Dream & Pun (no kidding), 18 Mathew St, Liverpool 2. Ken assures me that the plays will make brains boggle, and will be the biggest thing in the theatre for some years. If you can, read the novels before you go, so you won't miss any of the intricacies or paranoia.

Peruvian Ground Drawings -- the last scheduled UK stop of this exhibition of Maria Reiche's astonishing photos of the now famous and enigmatic lines on the Nazca plains, Peru, in the Mappin Art Gallery, in Sheffield, 28 August to 19 Sept. A catalogue of the photos is on sale, or otherwise available from the ICA gallery, London, or the Arts Council, 105 Picadilly, London.

HARDBACKS

The Sirius Mystery: Was Earth visited by intelligent beings from a planet in the system of the star Sirius? by Robert KG Temple (Sidgwick & Jackson; £6.95; pp290; index, bib, appendices, plates, diagrams)-- I have been harshly critical in the past of the von Daniken school, not for any flaw in the basic concept, but because their breathless advocation of the concept was spiritually bankrupt, 'explaining-away' any evidence (sometimes not even puzzling evidence) of human ingenuity and creativity as the result of alien intervention, as though those qualities never spontaneously arise, or count for nothing. Temple admits the temptation to write another catalogue of wonders was very great, but thank heavens he manag to restrict himself to one fascinating problem. How did the Dogon tribe of Mali in West Africa know of the companion star of Sirius, invisible to the eye, and only photographed in 1970? As the detective work unfolds the question is answered (they learned it from the ancient Egyptians who enshrined their knowledge of Sirius in a wealth of legend, and in the network of oracle-centres that ring the Mediterranean) and replaced by the more complex and far-reaching question of the title.

The conclusion is inescapable - the facts of the Sirius mystery are incontrovertible - and Temple seems a little embarassed by having to voice an emphatic "Yes!" For once the blurb is right: where others have offered only weakly supported conjecture, Temple provides a singular and specific proof of extraterrestrial contact. I for one hope this will reverse the distressing trend away from scholarship in the field, for The Sirius Mystery is a model of reasoning and research in a difficult subject. Like Velikovsky, Temple had to aquire new skills and one hopes that unlike Velikovsky, Temple will be spared the childish chauvinism of scientists outraged at the intrusion of an 'outsider' into what many of them regard as their own private preserves of knowledge. Like Velikovsky's work too, the spinoff implications for the social history and origins of man are of incalculable consequence. That is the essence of this book and there is nothing I can add further, other than to urge you all to read and buy a copy. As a bonus you will get here not only rare documentation on the problem, but for the first time in translation, rare fragments on the strange beings from other worlds recorded in the writings of the Neo-Platonist philosophers, and others of the early centuries of our era who bothered enough to record this ancient (even then) knowledge. You will also learn much about Greek and Roman mythology that is not included on any academic curriculum. At last an authoritative reference on the subject of ET contact, and one I would feel confident in recommending to even the most dedicated anti-ET skeptic.

Gifts of Unknown Things by Lyall Watson (Hodder & Stoughton; £3.95; pp240; brief bib) -- The story of a period Watson was marooned among a small moslem community on a pseudonymous island, Nus Tarian, in Indonesia. Taking off on the various events of an unusual (to him) nature that happen in that community, Watson contrasts the unity, simplicity and harmony of their lives with how we live (if that's the term) in the West. The book is very thin on material, and largely follows the annual ritual dance dramas, and a young girl, Tiamat, who (Watson claims) can raise the dead, bring down fire from heaven, heal at a touch and induce visions in those who watch her dance.

Watson's intention is to show the basic differences in the approach to the great universe as a whole between 'us' and 'them', and to invoke our sense of wonder (and indeed worship) at the "suchness" of it all (to borrow the Zen term). Unfortunately he fails, because his heavily impressionistic style very suitable for the natural magic of the events themselves is spread over the entire book creating a monotonous chant. One can also detect a sad pessimism behind the brave smile, as though Watson realised that despite his fine words, 'the West' will continue on its blind, uncaring, materialistic path. This makes it a very personal book - one man's meander around the age-old problems of ontology and eschatology - and completes his slide from the objectivity of Supernature into a romantic subjective and disillusioned retreat from the world most of us live in. For example he is scathing about the "cult of extraterrestrial intelligence" which has already become a "fashionable creed" with its own dogmas - and he finds more inspiration in the life-cycle of the liver fluke, which at one point gangs-up and hijacks an ant by overriding its brain, ordering it up to the top of a grass stem to await a browsing sheep, the host for the colony's next transformation. The book is peppered with little drawings of ants, and I guess Watson is implying that for all our vaunted intelligence we have no more control over our affairs, en masse, than a fluke-ridden ant - that we are all subject to a greater pattern of events.

Watson is clearly in a transition phase between his scientific and his natural mystical views of the world. If he can hold it together until the two fuse his next book could really be something - this one should have remained in the pages of his diary until then.

The Power of the Pendulum by TC Lethbridge (Routledge & Kegan Paul; £3.25; pp138; appendix) -- This is Lethbridge's last book and develops his earlier ideas on the nature of time, higher dimensions, and the 'fields' around things that can be detected with the pendulum technique. From his observation that most objects appear to have two distinct pendulum rates, and that the fields around them can be 'charged' with thoughts, images or impressions, Lethbridge postulates a higher existance which can be practically explored through dreams, the pendulum and other methods of uncovering the layers of information in these fields. The exposition, as always, is intriguing, with the honest humility of a genuine pioneer, and we can only wonder with Colin Wilson (in his introduction) to what new insights and discoveries Lethbridge would have worked had he lived. The record of his thoughts is with us here, waiting to picked up on, and together his books seem to hint at pieces of our cosmic jigsaw. There is a long appendix on different types of dreams, drawn from his own experience and those of friends.

The Mystery of Atlantis by Charles Berlitz (Souvenir Press; £3.50; pp212; bib) -- Not a sequel to his incredibly successful The Bermuda Triangle, but in fact a book written in 1969, now released in England for the first time. It is an attempt to consolidate the evidence for Atlantis drawn from material and literary sources, myth and lore - and an interesting collection it is too, especially the sections and photographs of the discoveries at Bimini, the Azores and the Aegean sea. Though Berlitz devotes much space to the numerous fascinating remains of cities now below the sea, the links to Atlantis remain contentious - the name (like biro, cellotape or hoover etc,)now applies generally, in this case to any sunken land. There is minimal reference to the obligatory UFOs and Berlitz is more restrained in his speculations, a factor by which the book benefits. If only he had continued this approach into the Triangle book.

Strange Artifacts compiled and published by William R Corliss (The Sourcebook Project, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057, USA; $7.95; pp287; fully indexed) -- This is volume M2 in the laudable Sourcebook project which is endeavouring to collect and reprint key and rare reference material on the whole gamut of the odd - the M series being on 'Ancient Man'. This volume contains material on the origins of the American Indians; fossil footprints and curious petrified human remains; ancient technological artifacts and evidences; hill figures, and other graphic 'macroforms'; petroglyphs and marked stones; undeciphered inscriptions; collossi; Chinese contacts with America; legends of giants, dwarfs and relics of same; legends of cosmology and the origin of technology; celtic flints; megalithic structures (buildings, canals, dolmens, forts, mounds, henges, pyramids, roads, tunnels and walls). The series is constructed so that sections can be assembled to suit the researcher's predilictions. The indexes are divided into sources, places and subject, and are cumulative (ie. they include the material in vol M1). This is a reference series no researcher or library should be without - more details on the other volumes and subjects can be had from Corliss at the above address.

Speak, Shining Stranger (from AUM: Box 5310, Austin, Texas 78763, USA; $8.95; pp239) -- The Association for the Understanding of Man (AUM) is involved in projects ranging from what they call "psychical archeology" to UFO monitoring to research into the psychic components of pregnancy, birth and child rearing. Many of these activities seem to centre on Ray Stanford who appears to have picked up where Edgar Cayce left off. Regular sessions are held in which he goes into trance and delivers sermons or readings on all manner of topics. Some of these are collected into this book, and deal with healing, prayer, dreams, drugs, the 'occult', the meaning of suffering, death and after, the 'White Brotherhood', the life of Jesus, and so on. Although the readings are given a variety of voices and personalities, Stanford confesses that he does not know if they exist "outside my own unconscious mind", and if not then we have an indication of the extraordinary capacities of this unknown region. Your editor knows no way to evaluate this kind of material except to judge it on its 'spirit', and these writings seem honest, clear and inspired. Whatever you make of them will depend on your inclinations - I found them interesting and worthy of my time. Who knows what they are? In the presence of this kind of material I usually feel quite insignificant, like standing on an unknown shore and staring out at some vast and infinite sea. I have my reservations, but I'll not deny any path to knowledge on the grounds that it is absurd, or for the faithful or the gullible.

PAPERBACKS

Charles Fort, The Fortean Society & UFOs by Loren E Gross: 38675 Paseo Padre#305, Fremont, CA 94536, USA; 113pp; $2.00. -- At last someone has seriously examined and recognised, in a study, Fort's important contribution to the problem we now call UFOs. Although Fort broached the idea of visitors to this earth from elsewhere many times since The Book of the Dam-

ned first came out in 1919, we are only just beginning to understand the breadth of his vision. Not only was he a serious advocate of spaceflight at that time ((several letincluding this subject appeared in New York papers)) but saw the overlap with many other areas of his data. Consider his shocking suggestion: "I think we're property...That once upon a time, this earth was No-man's Land, that other worlds explored and colonized here, and fought among themselves for possession, but that now it's owned by something...all others warned off." (The Books p163). Here, long before the von Daniken school, are the suggestions that perhaps giants from space built the huge megalithic monuments, and that the lights in the sky were "super-constructions", the ships of voyagers from other worlds. Fort even anticipated the parapsychological link of the UTH, now proving to be a fruitful field of study: "Some day I shall publish data that lead me to suspect that many appearances on this earth that were once upon a time interpreted by theologians and demonologists, but are now supposed to be the subject-matter of psychic research, were beings from and objects that visited this earth, not from a spiritual existence, but from outer space." (The Books p419f). It is important to stress that contrary to the opinion of many authors who show a fundamental misunderstanding of Fort's singular technique by insisting he believed these theories, Fort regarded them merely as possibilities, like many other possibilities as subjects for discussion, patterns around which information could be organised. Belief, which implies a degree of intellectual allegiace, was furthest from Fort's mind.

Gross, refreshingly, avoids this error in a direct way; his interest is primarily as a historian of the UFO phenomenon itself, and Fort as probably the first in modern times to collect accounts of sightings. Gross is far less interested in Fort's speculations on the subject than in this data gathered by Fort, and later the Fortean Society under Thayer. Nevertheless his picture of Fort seems to be accurate and well researched, even if this picture is limited (at one point Gross calls Fort's UFO data, his "only really significant contribution to history" This pecadillo aside, we have here a rare & valuable work of scholarship in the history of the study of UFOs, covering the period of mysterious aerial lights between August 1895 and August 1947 - a period which also saw the airship flap of 1896, and the 'Ghost Rockets' of 1946, both detailed in two earlier booklets by Gross ((copies now only obtainable from Centre for UFO Studies, 924 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202, USA)). One fascinating aspect that Gross mentions (and I wish he could have devoted more space to - but hell! it's a whole subject in itself) is the relationship of reported sightings to the rising genre of science-fiction in the pulp mags of the first half of this century. He does mention, though, a story in Amazing Stories of October 1946, which anticipated the now classic contactee elements as the invisible ray that stops the car, the telepathic contact with the entities, and the statements by the entities that they have come to save mankind from the errors of his technological path.

This is a booklet no serious UFOlogist should be without. Only 500 were printed, so you'd better hurry and send your $2.00 to Gross at the address above.

Dowsing for Metals by Michael Wild; 24pp; 60p (postage: 15p UK, 20p overseas) -- being a concise and practical guide to the methods and theories of dowsing for metals, based on a review of the contributions of the key innovators in the field (eg. De France, Mermet, Trinder, Lethbridge, etc). All you need to know to get those good vibrations on your own...

From Fenris Wolf/ Institute of Geomancy -- Central European Geomancy (75p) being translations by P Jones & M Behrend of selected studies by Kurt Gerlach and Josef Heinsch on traces of the prehistoric geomancy of Central Europe, medieval Bohemia, and the Holy Roman Empire. Classic material of the National Socialists' search for their pagan roots - valuable material in English translation for the first time -- WH Black: Pioneer Geomantic Researcher (IGR occasional paper 4) being selected writings of a pioneer who preceeded Watkins in the 1820s -- Stanton Drew (IGR occasional paper 5) a reprint of the 1876 study of this famous megalithic complex by CW Dymond -- Geomancy of Glastonbury Abbey, being a geomantic analysis of the legend, site and architecture by Nigel Pennick. All inquiries to FW/IGR: 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8SD, UK.

Illuminatus! by Robert Shea & Robert Anton Wilson; Dell; 3 volumes; $1.50 each -- a rambling story that trips through the Kennedy assassinations; a plot to release a heinous Anthrax-Leprosy virus; the notorious Chicago convention; how Hagbard Celine, the last of the freebooters, bought the Mafia with gold looted from an Atlantean temple; how 'they' shot a fake John Dillinger, leaving five clones on the loose; a revolution on the small island of Fernando Poo inspired by the minions of Chthulu; a whole regiment of Nazi stormtroopers in suspended animation on the bed of a Swiss lake awaiting activation by a rockgroup bent on world domination. Meet talking dolphins; Adam Weishaupt, who founded the Illuminati in

1776 (yeah! on 1st May, too) then fled to America when the sect got busted, changing his name to George Washington, and tending his huge marijuana plantations (why d'you think he looks so stoned on the dollar bill?) Padre Pederasty who recruits for numerous anarchist movements all using each other as cover; Atlanta Hope who uses her frightful anti-porn female militia, God's Lightning, as one of the outlets for her operations as an Illuminatus; and many other cranks, fanatics, schemers, dreamers, liberators and their victims. This is a compendium of madness culled from all the key books of the (what used to be underground) culture on everything you can milk for laughs or shudders - drugs, sex, black magic, sex, comix, sex, horror & fantasy, sex, secret societies and even sex - written into a gut-busting, brain-withering riot guaranteed to become a cult novel (Tolkein will be spinning in his grave) and packed with enough paranoia to keep you glancing furtively over your shoulder for weeks. The authors prove the penis mightier than the sword on a philosophical battleground that draws on Lovecraft, Leary, Hassan-i-Sabah, Kesey & Ginsberg, the Tzu brothers (Lao & Chuang), the Zen masters, Crowley & Levi, and other apostles, true and false, in the ancient conflicts between orthodoxy and unorthodoxy, the state and the individual, establishments and iconoclasts, us and them. Is the world really run by the Illuminati, and are a confused bunch of dope freaks really our last chance? Who is the lama who lives below Dealy Plaza and juggles with space-time? Why do our heroes stand by while a giant leviathan makes love to their computor? Is there any truth to the significance of the numbers 5, 23 and 33, upon which the entire novel is structured? Is the novel structured? (Be prepared for streams of consciousness in which not only identity, but time and space no longer confine the narrative, which zips up and down time-lines and flashes into other minds with consummate ease).

A damned good read. Has to be read to be believed (and even then I'm not sure - it really is preposterous in parts). See if you can spot all the allusions. Though Fort has only one fleeting mention that I can remember, the authors are fully aware of the Fortean philosophy, and indeed, the scope of the book is a brilliant exercise in Fortean flexibility, and an outrageous mirror of modern folly.

Experiment in Depth by PW Martin (Routledge & Kegan Paul; £1.95; index) -- Martin extracts from the works of Jung, TS Eliot and AJ Toynbee, three approaches to the human unconscious, the psychological, the poetic and the historical. If these three could be combined - the experiment of the title - we would see, says Martin, the flowering of the full creative spirit of man in a unique blend of science and religion. An important book I wish I could devote more space to. Much insight on phenomenal reality.

...re-issues...Colony Earth by Richard Mooney (Panther; 75p)...The End of Atlantis by JV Luce (Paladin; 95p)...The Occult by Colin Wilson (Mayflower; £1.75)

These and other books are available from Dark They Were & Golden Eyed in Berwick St, London W1 - tell'em FT sent you.

JOURNALS

** Due to our omission of journal reviews last issue we are a bit behind - we've had to squeeze a lot in this issue to catch up, and some have had to be held over to next issue...but keep sending us info. We print on a need-to-know priority and urgent or more relevant material jumps the queue **

The Ley Hunter -- 70: GR Phillips on Sir Montagu Sharpe's network of rectangles (proposed 6yrs before Watkin's leys); the mystery 'Walls of Feizor' in Yorkshire; & 'French & Belgian Literature on Sacred Geography'; & 'A Computer Study of the Megalithic Alignments of Land's End' by Chris Hutton Squire & Pat Gadsby -- 71: prior to the change in editor, some retrospective views on TLH; extract of Paul Screeton's forthcoming book The Living Stones; the maths of 'Ley Plotting' -- 72: the eagerly-awaited debut of Paul Devereux as editor and a dramatic change to litho & FT-style format.. it allows the welcome feature of photos, something Paul has promised more of in the future, beginning with a photo-feature series of views of leys, stones & topographic curiosities. Also this issue: GL Phillips on 'The Black Horse of Busha' (a hillside figure); Avebury considered as 'The Home of the Holy Grail'; a summary of Maria Reiche's ICA lecture on Nazca; Steve Moore straightening out some current misconceptions of 'Leys & Feng Shui'; & how to compute Leys from grid co-ordinates. TLH: 1yr £2/$4.00 ** new address: TLH, PO Box 152, London N10 1EB. NB: TLH & FT will be working closer together in future, and from our respective next issues will be offering a joint subscription at a small discount. Things are looking up!

Pursuit -- Jan 76: Sanderson on UFOs; report on NJ Bigfoot expedition; Roy Pinney on spontaneous image on series of photos; notes on survival of extinct (?) peccaries in Argentina, African neo-dinosaurs, petrified human remains & a MA at Sheep's Hill, Penn.; Wayne Meshejian on 'Erratic Satellites over the Bermuda Triangle' & Ron Dobbins exposing Meshejian's errors; UFOs linked to

human behaviour patterns by TE Bearden; a grim SHC case in Florida, 1975; & a curious mutilation of a mouse -- April 76: John Keel bows in as new editor with comments on the rising tide of Fortean awareness; articles on 'Fort's Books', 'Bias in Perception of Fortean Events', 'The Dodecated Globe'; & notes on an entombed turtle, Bermuda mysteries de-mystified, giant pterosaur remains in Texas, & the Allende Letters. Pursuit is the journal of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained (SITU): inquiries to SITU, Columbia, NJ 07832, USA. Membership is $10/yr - Pursuit is quarterly.

INFO Journal -- 17: pt 1 of Gary Mangiacopra's account of the giant octopus carcase, Florida 1896 "still considered by science as a joke"; Ryan Drum on the rocks found in Peru by Dr Cabrera which appear to be engraved with details of complex surgical operations; Dave Drake on the wild talents of St Severinus (5th C); HL Mencken's 'Bathtub Hoax' still going strong nearly 60 yrs later -- 18: pt 2 of the Florida giant octopus article; Dick Hall's notes on the classic "Flying Saucer"; DN Peck's 'Guide to Detecting Paranormal Voices' on tape etc, with circuit diagram; John Holden on the taxonomy of Bigfoot, ABSMs, and notes on the Giant Tortoise mystery. INFO: Box 367, Arlington, VA 22210, USA. £5/$10.00. For a special joint sub rate to INFO & FT see details in the colophon (inside front, this issue).

MUFOB - now that FSR has become the UFOlogical establishment, MUFOB is fast gaining a reputation as a radical voice - worthy of your support -- Summer 76 (ns3): Jenny Randles summarises 'The Strange Affair of Apen', a sort of UFOlogical guerilla group, reputed to be allied to the far right 'Column 88', disrupting the sanity of its selected victims with an Ummo-type conspiracy here in the UK; Roger Sandell spotlights the avatars of the UFO vehicle-stopping effect in folklore; and Peter Rogerson gives a nice literary impressionistic view of the mythological complexity of UFOlogy. MUFOB: 1yr £1/$2.50: (John Rimmer, ed.): 11 Beverley Rd, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4AW.

Lantern -- Spring 76 (13): Nigel Pennick on the 'Puddingstone Track' from Berks to Norfolk; The Southend Sea-serpent (1930s); E. Anglian ghosts; Biorhythms & Psi; 'The Phantom Hedge', etc -- Summer 76 (14): hauntings of Kessingland churchyard; unusual stones of E Anglia; report on diamond-shaped UFO (Rugby, 1951); WC Chambers on 'Bealings Bells' etc. Lantern is the journal of the Borderline Science Investigation Group (BSIG) - consistently interesting and worthy of your support. Only 75p/yr. Lantern: (Ivan Bunn, ed.): 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4RZ.

New Scientist -- 27 March: item on a naturally-formed fossil nuclear reactor in sandstone strata, found at Oklo, Gambon in 1972, dating back to 1780 million yrs ago -- 15 April: 'Healing by Electromagnetism', Dr R Benthal reviews the fact & fiction;'Was the parting of the Red Sea a Mirage?', yes, *says AB Frazer, no, say others.* (Soon NSci will discuss the number of angels on a pinhead!) -- 20 April: more discoveries of magnetic monopoles; letter on nematodes that hitchhike in passing flies -- 13 May: two articles (for and against) the emergence of yet another field of specialism, 'Sociobiology' (its detractors see it being used to prop up racial facism - !) -- 27 May: Dr A Locket on Coelacanth reproduction methods & anatomy; photo of Comet West breaking into 4 parts (more on this in FT 18); another "extinct" critter found living, this time a crustacean (glyphid) in the Philippines supposedly dead 60-70 million yrs; Dr Donald Gould rails at faith healing -- 10 June: metal artifacts indicate an indigenous technology in northern Thailand 3000 to 3600 yrs BC, who or what they were remains a mystery; and so soon after all the fanfares for the new statistical tool,the 'Catastrophe Theory', comes warnings of dangers of its use with wrong data -- 24 June: Dr R Wallace on the discovery of 3 stable superheavy new elements beyond Uranium in Madagascan rock; discovery of 2 new "galaxy-like objects" (!) in our stellar vicinity.

Analog -- June 76: G Harry Stine on experiments with the 'Dean Drive' (a paradoxical engine which appears to generate thrust without reaction) and why the tests had to stop on the verge of a radical breakthrough . (pp60-80).

Flying Saucer Review -- 21:6: Aime Michel on the robots of Hephaestus from the Iliad; SE Priest on 'UFOnauts as Timetravellers'; some curious reversed TV images during a USA TV UFO documentary -- 22:1: image of 'entity' on photograph; a water-sucking globe in Japan; more occupants, cases & photos. FSR : West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

SOBEPS News -- 2: Bermuda Triangle bibliography; UFO reports; article on the 'Physiological Effects of UFO Contacts' -- 3: summary of Bermuda Triangle events; summary of man's achievements in space; pt 2 of 'Physiological Effects of UFO Contacts'. SOBEPS News is a highly recommended supplement giving the English translation of Inforespace, the journal of the Belgian UFO research group, SOBEPS. They also put out a catalogue (in English) of an analysis of 130 'Solid Light Cases', by Claude Bourtembourg and Alice Ashton. Inquiries to: SOBEPS: Boulevard Aristide Briand 26, 1070 Brussels, Belgium.